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(30p)

Weeping Armenian tells of atrocities in Soviet riots

From Christopher Walker
Moscow

Despite the Kremlin's imposition of a news blackout there was dramatic confirmation yesterday that violence between Christian Armenians and Muslim Azerbaijanis in the southern Soviet Union has been bloody and widespread. Tass last night gave the first official death toll for the rioting in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait last Sunday as 31, nearly twice the total given to date by dissident sources who have been the only conduit of information and have reported a further 70 people injured. "Criminal elements committed violent actions and engaged in robberies. They killed 31 people, among them members of various nationalities, old men and women," Tass said. "Resolute measures were taken to normalize the situation. Those guilty of the crimes were arrested, and criminal proceedings are being instituted against them strictly in accordance with the Soviet laws."

Earlier, a member of the 17,000-strong minority Armenian community in the Caspian Sea city told Western reporters by telephone that there had been cases of murder, rape and robbery in the two days of violence, which ended on Monday when the Soviet Army imposed a curfew. The witness, who explained that he was one of those left a refugee by the violence, wept as he spoke from the building opposite the main Communist Party premises where, he said, Armenians were waiting to leave the city. Sumgait has a population of 180,000 people.

Armenians in Sumgait had been murdered, raped and had their property stolen, the refugee said. Azerbaijani fury had been ignited by an official radio report that two Azerbaijanis had been murdered earlier in another part of the province, he said.

The Armenian, contacted fortuitously during a call intended for the Com-



munist Party building, was unable to give his name before being cut off by Soviet security services. He told newsmen that during the violence in Sumgait seven members of a single Armenian family had been killed.

Providing the first clear picture of the extent of the ethnic hatred in Azerbaijan and Armenia, the two neighbouring Soviet republics, the refugee said that for

the first 48 hours of the rioting, the Armenian minority had been left unprotected by the local authorities. "But then the troops came in and helped us," he said, adding that the Armenian refugees were split into two groups and given shelter while they waited to be moved out of the troubled city.

Sumgait is one of the three main population centres in Azerbaijan where Islamic militancy has recently been exacerbated by the physical proximity to Iran.

The wave of unrest started two weeks ago, with thousands demonstrating in the Armenian capital of Yerevan for the return to Armenian control of the mountainous enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. The area was transferred to Azerbaijani jurisdiction after the 1917 revolution.

Before the line was cut, the Armenian told reporters that "We built this city, we taught them..." - an apparent reference to the rapid building of Sumgait in the

1940s by International Youth Brigades from all over the Soviet Union in which Armenians and Azerbaijanis worked side by side.

Before the brigades arrived and created the city, which now houses one of the Soviet Union's largest tube-rolling mills as well as many other industrial plants, it was, according to one Soviet guidebook, only "a small village on a river which is dry for most of the year".

The picture painted by the Armenian refugee of the violence engendered by the past two weeks of ethnic strife was reinforced by Mr Sergei Grigoryants, the Moscow dissident of Armenian descent who has been bravely defying the official news blackout to provide details of the unrest to the outside world. Mr Grigoryants is editor of an underground newspaper, *Glasnost*.

Mr Grigoryants, who provided the only video of the disturbances so far to

reach the West, revealed yesterday that Armenians in Sumgait, 25 miles north of the Azerbaijani capital of Baku, had on Thursday given a moving communal funeral to relatives killed in the ethnic riots. He said that because of the tense situation, only one relative of each dead person was permitted to attend the burials.

Although the authorities claim that calm has returned to the Armenian capital, Mr Grigoryants told reporters that since the mass protests were temporarily abandoned last weekend after an appeal by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet authorities were barring entry to anyone without a Yerevan resident's permit.

A diary kept by a Yerevan resident during the protests and which reached Moscow yesterday suggested that the city was not entirely peaceful. Mass protests were continuing although those involved were well disciplined.

Thatcher hits at 'gutless' Labour Party

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Amid furious exchanges in the Commons, the Prime Minister yesterday accused Mr Neil Kinnock of talking "claptrap" and said that on defence matters, Labour had "no memory, no stomach, no spine and no guts."

Mrs Thatcher said that Britain had got precisely what it wanted from the Brussels Nato summit, including the all-important commitment to maintain an effective nuclear deterrent.

She made the "claptrap"

accusation after Mr Kinnock had suggested that the Prime Minister had been "effectively sidelined" by a pre-summit deal worked out between West Germany and the United States and that she had been forced to moderate her original demands for nuclear modernization.

She pointed repeatedly to the final communiqué agreement to keep Nato's nuclear weapons "up to date", and used that agreement to pour scorn and derision on Labour's unilateralism.

The Prime Minister, at her most strident, stressed time and time again that disarmament could only be achieved

Parliament 4
Nato signal 6

through strength, at which point she made the accusation that Labour had "no memory, no stomach, no spine, no guts".

The final communiqué had been signed by all 16 Nato countries, including a number with socialist governments. "The fact is that alone in Europe this country's socialist party is totally out of step with every other one in Europe - absolutely no wonder because it is virtually a CND socialist party," she declared.

Mr Kinnock said that since the summit "semantic anarchy" had broken out between the allies, with West Germany interpreting the final communiqué as meaning that nuclear weapons would be updated "where desirable", the communiqué saying they would be kept "up to date where necessary", and Mrs Thatcher interpreting that as "modernization".

He also said that whereas Mrs Thatcher had entered the summit refusing to negotiate on short-range nuclear weapons until the Soviet Union's superiority in conventional and chemical weapons was eliminated, the final communiqué said the

two processes could occur "in conjunction".

Her insistence on multiplication of Nato's armaments was the greatest possible impediment to Mr Gorbachev's attempts to reform the Soviet Union, said Mr Kinnock.

But Mrs Thatcher insisted that all Britain's pre-summit objectives had been "very fully and satisfactorily achieved".

She said the summit had underlined the continuing importance of Nato to the defence of the West and had confirmed Nato's unity and resolve in the face of Soviet attempts to divide Europe from the United States, and reaffirmed its strategy of flexible response with the consequent need to keep all Nato's conventional and nuclear weapons up to date.

She argued that reductions in short-range nuclear weapons "would only come about in conjunction with the establishment of conventional balance and the global elimination of chemical weapons," adding that "it is quite clear that Nato is determined to avoid a third nuclear war".

She said that the summit had reaffirmed Nato's basic message of "Defence, Deterrence and Dialogue" and the strategy that had kept the peace for 40 years. "It is on the basis of such a sure defence that we are able to welcome the reforms which are taking place in the Soviet Union and to enter into further negotiations to reduce the level of weaponry on both sides."

As the communiqué had been written and cleared in English, her interpretation of it was correct, she said.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, said in Oxford yesterday that the summit had been "the best possible news for all those who are concerned about Britain's security and want to see further progress on arms control".

Inquiry ordered into Young Tories' ballot

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

Conservative party officials ordered an inquiry last night into the conduct of the ballot for the leadership of the Young Conservatives amid allegations of electoral irregularities.

Moderate Young Conservatives overcame the threat of an extremist takeover as their candidate, Mr Martin Woodroffe, was declared the new chairman of the 20,000-member youth wing.

The count was overshadowed by accusations from Mr Woodroffe's camp of secret funds and dirty tactics matched by allegations of ballot-rigging and intimidation from the right-wingers.

Mr Andrew Tinney, the right-wing candidate, said after the vote was announced that he welcomed the inquiry. He believed senior Conser-

Continued on page 24, col 7

Businessmen to the rescue of royal adventures

By Alan Hamilton

One of the favourite charities of the Prince of Wales, which was due to close next year, has been rescued for a further five years by a consortium of anonymous northern businessmen.

Operation Raleigh, set up by Colonel John Blashford-Snell in 1984 to offer adventurous expeditions to young people, with the Prince as its patron, was meant to last for only five years, but its organisers reported yesterday that enough money had been raised to continue.

Since its inception Raleigh has raised more than £12 million from donations and commercial sponsorship, and by the time the original scheme ends in April 1989 it will have sent over 4,000 young people to more

than 30 countries, combining adventure with community work and other charitable projects in the Third World.

Prince Charles agreed to be patron of Raleigh for its planned five years and Buckingham Palace sources have indicated that he will step down next year as intended to devote his time to other projects.

A spokesman for Raleigh at its Chelsea headquarters said yesterday that enough seed capital had been promised to guarantee that the basic organization would continue, but that commercial sponsors would need to be found for specific expeditions. More than 70 organizations and commercial companies who backed previous expeditions are being approached.

The scope of the project is to be widened to offer adventure to older people, although its bias towards young people from deprived inner cities and poor rural areas is expected to continue. The last of the present series of major expeditions takes off this summer for Panama and northern Pakistan; volunteers are also continuing a major scheme of eye cataract operations in rural areas of Indonesia.

Staff at Raleigh confirmed that the offer of £500,000 from Arco, an American oil company, had been withdrawn following the company's failure to extract a guarantee that the Prince of Wales would continue as patron, and that Colonel Blashford-Snell would be replaced as head of the organisation by General Sir James Glover, who works for Arco.

White-glove treatment for Holbein masterpiece



Careful hands for Holbein's Henry VIII by Mr Piers Rodgers and Dr Emil Bosshard, the collection's chief conservator. (Photograph: Chris Harris).

By Andrew Billen

On the top floor of Burlington House a Holbein portrait of Henry VIII was slowly lifted from its crate shortly after noon yesterday. For Mr Piers Rodgers, secretary of the Royal Academy, the waiting was finally at an end.

"It's tremendously exciting after all this time, more than 25 years, to see the collection back in London. It's a wonderful moment," he said.

Hans Holbein the younger's only authentic portrait of King Henry is just one of more than 50 Old Masters from Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza's Collection that will go on display from March 18 to June 12 at an exhibition sponsored by The Times.

Their arrival meant the prospect of sleep at last for Mr Andy Lagnaz, one of two truck drivers who drove a consignment from the Baron's Villa Favorita in Lugano.

In Zebrugg he spent the night on guard in his cab before waking to discover he would have to talk his way through an industrial dispute at the port's docks. He arrived in

Continued on page 24, col 4

Fears for safety of Oxfam official

From Juan Carlos Gammucio, west Beirut

Briton is seized in Lebanon

Mr Peter Coleridge, a British relief worker, was reported missing in Lebanon yesterday and an armed Palestinian group later claimed it was holding him along with a Syrian colleague.

Mr Coleridge, aged 44, who is the Middle East co-ordinator of Oxfam, arrived in Beirut on Wednesday and drove to the port city of Sidon the following day for a meeting with other relief workers. According to Oxfam employees in Beirut, it was his first trip to Lebanon in three years.

Mr Coleridge was reported missing early yesterday after he failed to attend a meeting in west Beirut at 9 am. There were contradictory reports about his last known movements in Sidon on Thursday.

One of them said Mr Coleridge and Mr Omar Traboulsi,

a Syrian national who is Oxfam's representative in Lebanon, went missing after attending a meeting at the Catholic archdiocese in Sidon. No alarm was given because Oxfam officials in Beirut thought that the two had decided to spend the night in Sidon. But Ms Missrine Rawda, an Oxfam official in

Wife who waits 2
Photographs 2

west Beirut, said that Mr Coleridge and Mr Traboulsi were definitely supposed to return on Thursday night.

Another report said the two were last seen after they had lunch with Mrs Alia Shamama, the director of the Palestinian "Ghassan Kanafani" foundation in Sidon's Skanadrani district. According to wit-

nesses, Mr Coleridge and Mr Traboulsi were seen later travelling in an orange Opel station wagon towards the foundation's office in the nearby Ein el-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp.

Mr John Gray, the British Ambassador in Lebanon, crossed into west Beirut from the Christian side of the capital to hold a 15-minute meeting with Ms Rawda but said he could not confirm the story "one way or another".

Oxfam employees had been told by their headquarters in Oxford "not to panic", apparently because they were confident that efforts to find the two would produce progress in a matter of hours.

Last night the Lebanese Sunni Muslim militia leader, Mr Mustafa Saad, said the two Oxfam officials were being

held by a Palestinian group and might be released soon.

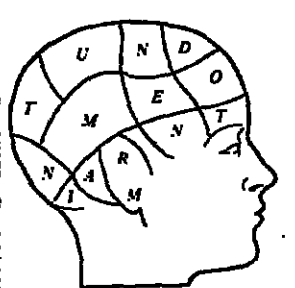
He said they were being held by Palestinians "for investigation", claiming that Mr Coleridge took photographs in the Ain el-Hilweh refugee camp.

British embassy officials declined to say whether they were aware of Mr Coleridge's presence in Lebanon. British citizens have been advised not to travel to Muslim-controlled areas because of the ever-present threat of abduction.

Radical groups are still holding Mr Terry Waite, the Anglican Church envoy and John McCarthy, a television journalist. Both have been in captivity for more than one year. Alec Collett, a journalist working for a UN agency, was seized in March of 1985.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

There is still £28,000 to be won in today's Portfolio Accumulator, plus the £28,000 weekly prize. (Yesterday's winners, page 3).



Round Eleven of the challenging Tournament of the Mind: Page 19

IN PART 2

Banker goes

Standard Chartered Bank's group managing director has agreed to resign and will be replaced by the Bank of England's banking supervision director. Page 25

Unwed tax

Will the tax allowance for unmarried people sharing a mortgage be hit in the Budget? Family Money... pages 30-34

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Rail strike chaos for commuters

Thousands of rail commuters had chaotic journeys to work yesterday after 700 train drivers went on 24-hour unofficial strike in London and the South-east.

The strike, by members of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef), disrupted services into Liverpool Street, London Bridge and Victoria. Disruption is likely to continue over the weekend after the drivers made clear their determination to boycott trains they claim have faulty brakes.

Yesterday's strike came after a driver who overshot a station platform was disciplined. British Rail said the commuter trains' braking system is safe.

Man quits Data fees 'too high'

The gas lights have gone out in Maryport, Cumbria, because the lamp man has been forced to give up his job.

Mr Derek Henderson, aged 29, was paid £2 a week to service 17 gas lamps near the harbour area of the town.

He has decided to quit after being told his wage from Allerdale Council meant that his unemployment benefit would be reduced.

The lights are likely to stay out because Mr Henderson was the only man in the town qualified to maintain the mantles and lanterns.

Angry post chief goes

A Post Office chief resigned yesterday after a furious outburst over what he claimed was the declining standard of the postal service.

"A once noble public service has been vandalized and reduced to nothing more than a third-rate, cut-price, corner supermarket where commercial considerations outweigh everything else," said Mr Ian Barr, chairman of the Scottish Post Office Board. "No self-respecting Scot would want my job."

He said the last straw was a 35 per cent surcharge imposed on Datapost items to the Highlands and Islands without his consultation. The Scottish Post Office Board said there had been discussions with managers.

Families 'Pirate aid' case must wait

The Court of Appeal yesterday reserved judgement on an appeal against a London Borough of Tower Hamlets' decision not to house more than 70 Bangladeshi families because they were "intentionally homeless."

The Bangladeshis are challenging a High Court ruling that the council held that the families made themselves homeless by leaving settled accommodation in Bangladesh.

The families face eviction from temporary bed-and-breakfast accommodation if they lose their case.

TV-am share pledge

Mr Jonathan Aitken, the former director of TV-am and Conservative MP for Thanet South, said last night he would co-operate with the Independent Broadcasting Authority ultimatum requiring him to reduce the Saudi stake in the television company.

TV-am would not disclose yesterday whether it had responded to the IBA's instruction for immediate removal of the voting rights of the 15 per cent shareholding controlled by Mr Aitken and his cousin, Mr Timothy Aitken, who has stepped down as chairman of TV-am but remains a director.

Mr Jonathan Aitken said: "We are intending to sell the shareholding in accordance with the IBA's requirements."

Acid snow a threat to salmon

By Andrew Morgan

Stocks of salmon in the rivers and lakes of northern Europe may have been reduced because of acid in snow, built up from industrial emissions, British scientists said yesterday.

A winter's accumulation of acid can be released in a matter of days during the spring melt.

The discovery is more bad news for Britain, which creates a large amount of acid rain because of emissions from its power stations. Those follow the prevailing wind and are thought to be responsible for widespread damage to forests and lake fish stocks in central Europe and Scandinavia.

Researchers at the British Antarctic Survey and the University of Lancaster have found that sulphuric acid is most concentrated at the surface of ice crystals and this is released in early spring.

The process occurs at a highly sensitive time in the salmon's life-cycle and kills large numbers of eggs and small fish.

The discovery is based on work on ice samples from the Antarctic, where the sulphuric acid found in the ice occurs naturally. The results have been extrapolated to the snow caps in the northern hemisphere, where the acid concentrations are up to three times stronger and likely to be the result of industrial emissions. Scientists used low-temperature X-ray microanalysis techniques.

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Radical inner city initiative is ready

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister will unveil next week the Government's long-awaited package of measures aimed at tackling urban decay with a call for businessmen and industrialists to make a greater commitment to regenerating the inner cities.

The thrust of the Government's proposals will be for greater involvement by the private sector at the expense of local authorities, which will see a diminution of their role in dealing with the problems of run-down urban areas.

Ministers want to work in partnership with local authorities but are determined that they should be able to bypass councils which are hostile to their aims for regeneration.

One Whitehall source said yesterday: "The main direction of the policy will be towards the private sector. It is a fairly radical departure from the urban policy of the last 20 years and will diminish the role of the local authorities."

"They will be in a supportive rather than initiating role. We want to ensure that we can bypass the bureaucracy of local government and deal

Y Beibl Cymraeg wins church and chapel over

By Philip Howard, Literary Editor

In the daffodil week of St David's Day, we have a new Bible in Welsh for the land of gilly chaps, psalms, and rain. *Yn y deudnod creidd* *Dew y nefodd ar ddaear*. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. But then he deliberately confused things by confounding the language of all the earth into a babel of tongues, including Welsh, and leaving it to the sons of Adam to translate His Word into their various languages.

But language, even Welsh (pace the evidence of Eisteddfodau and barking hounds), is continually changing, and William Morgan's Welsh became

their native language. Most of that translation was done by the Rev William Morgan, and Vicar of Llanbadoc-y-Mochnant, a small parish near Oswestry. His version was partially revised in 1620, and it became the Welsh equivalent of the *Authorized Version*. Like King James's Bible of 1611 it became the single most important and influential book in the language, and arguably saved Welsh from extinction.

But language, even Welsh (pace the evidence of Eisteddfodau and barking hounds), is continually changing, and William Morgan's Welsh became

Cemeteries' controversy Thatcher's 'buy back' plea

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

Pressure from Mrs Margaret Thatcher's constituency office appears to have been a vital factor in persuading Tory councillors in Westminster to try to re-purchase three former municipal cemeteries.

They took the extraordinary step after they sold one cemetery to a private developer for 15p.

Two of the cemeteries are in the borough of Barnet, north-west London with which the Prime Minister maintains close connections. One, in East Finchley, is in her constituency. Complaints about the state of the cemetery were made to her constituency agent last year and have since grown in strength. The third cemetery is in Hanwell, in the borough of Ealing.

Relations between the Prime Minister and Lady Porter, Westminster's colourful leader, have not been especially warm, but the council leader was unable to resist the approaches made on the Prime Minister's behalf to resolve the question of the cemeteries.

This week the Conservatives resolved to swallow their pride and reverse their privatization policies by

Britain ahead in conductivity race

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Scientists at Cambridge University have achieved a major advance in the race to break the "temperature barrier" that is holding back the practical application of new ceramic materials that can become superconducting. Losing all their electrical resistance.

This overtook an announcement by American scientists on Tuesday of a key development in new superconducting materials.

These fascinating new ceramic materials have needed elaborate refrigeration to cool them to minus 180 degrees Centigrade before they become superconductors. Until researchers synthesize ones that can be used at room temperature, or with inexpensive, commercial refrigeration systems, they will remain laboratory curiosities.

If the temperature barrier is broken, these materials will lead to faster electronic components for supercomputers and new types of motors that would transform transport and power generation. An indication of the intensity of the international competition was made clear in the reception given to an announcement three days ago by Dr Paul Grant, of IBM's research laboratories in Almaden, California, of a new compound that nudged the temperature up by 25 degrees.

He told 1,200 experts from 22 countries at an international conference on superconductivity in Interlaken, Switzerland, that his research team had a device working at minus 155 degrees.

But almost while he was speaking, scientists at the University Centre for Superconductivity, established in Cambridge 18 months ago with a £4.5 million grant from the Science and Engineering Research Council, were testing a type of compound that superconducts at minus 83 degrees.

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Missing Lebanon aid worker

By Sam Kiley

The wife of Mr Peter Coleridge, the aid worker who disappeared from Sidon in southern Lebanon on Thursday night, said yesterday that she was confident that he "was doing all that is possible" to establish his whereabouts.

"All I know is that he is missing", Mrs Angela Coleridge said, as she waited for news at her home in Headington, near Oxford, with her daughters, Sara, aged 11, and Jessie aged 12, and her son, Edward, aged five.

She received the news of his disappearance at 11 am yesterday.

She said: "There was a call from the Oxfam headquarters saying Peter was missing. They couldn't tell me much more than that. Since then there hasn't been any official word as to what has happened to him. I don't want to talk about abduction or people holding him against his will."

She said that when the children came home from school she told them: "Daddy is missing and that they should not worry." The children took it calmly, and took their Labrador puppy, Pippa, for a walk.

She added: "Wives in my position often worry when their husbands are abroad. We never really believe that phone call will come through; but it did this morning, and now the children and I have to face up to it. It's happened but we must carry on in a routine, organized way", she said.

Mr Coleridge, aged 45, is an expert on the Arab world and fluent in Arabic. He is the aid agency's Area Co-ordinator for the Middle East, and has been working for Oxfam since 1981. He was last in Lebanon two years ago.

Mr John McGrath, Oxfam's spokesman, who is also a close friend of Mr Coleridge, said: "He is a very experienced aid worker and knows the Lebanon very well. He lived there for five years, working as an English teacher while his wife taught geography in a Quaker school, before the civil war. He knows the risks but would never take unnecessary ones". He added: "He is very popular here where he works, likeable

Life goes on for wife who waits

By Sam Kiley

and we hope that this will mean that he is safe".

Oxfam is particularly worried because it has had no word about the missing man. Press reports vary, sometimes claiming that he has been found.

Mr McGrath said: "We are being very careful only to deal in the facts lest we jeopardize negotiations that might be going on on the ground. Oxfam does not have a policy on whether or not the release of hostages is paid for. We will cross that bridge when we come to it. We do not want to blow the whole process by getting over-excited. At this stage we are treading very gently", he said. Oxfam spends £161,000 a year on projects all over the war-torn country.

Mr McGrath said: "We do not discriminate between factions but supply aid wherever there is human need. For example we treat people from all sides injured in street fighting, and run rehabilitation programmes for the mentally and physically handicapped."

In addition to Mr Omar Traboulsi, who went missing with Mr Coleridge, Oxfam has four other permanent members of staff, all Lebanese nationals, based mostly in and around Beirut. They are under instructions to carry on as normally as possible with their charity work.

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Dispute over coal pricing puts Scottish mines at risk

By Kerry Gill and Martin Fletcher

The dispute between British Coal and the South of Scotland Electricity Board over coal pricing left the long-term future of the Scottish coalfield in doubt last night.

British Coal was granted interim interdicts in the Scottish Court of Session yesterday preventing the electricity board from buying cheap imported coal for two power stations.

But immediately afterwards the electricity board announced that it had already signed contracts to buy in one million tonnes, about one quarter of its requirements, from Australian, Chinese and American suppliers.

Meanwhile, a Tory-controlled committee of MPs demanded a definitive government statement of its future policy of financial aid to the coal industry.

On the eve of next week's Commons debate to approve a supplementary £162 million in assistance to British Coal in the present financial year, the Commons energy committee issued a critical report which said that "stop-gap funding from crisis to crisis is not enough."

Although the South of Scotland Electricity Board promised to abide by the court ruling, it still has several legal options open to it. The temporary orders apply only to two power stations, Longannet in Fife and Cockenzie in East Lothian.

The electricity board could stockpile imported coal for a later date, use oil at Longannet and Cockenzie or even increase the output at its other power stations.

British Coal had told the Court of Session, Scotland's senior civil court, that if the

Transputer chip centre to open

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Britain's first national centre for the development of engineering applications for a new breed of microchip, called transputers, is to be opened in Sheffield (Peter Davenport writes).

Its aim is to help industry to exploit the enormous potential of a British invention which promises a new generation of computing equipment, capable of operating around 200 times faster than conventional microcomputers.

The National Transputer Support Centre is based in the Sheffield Science Park and is to be formally opened on Monday by Mr Robert Jackson, Minister for Higher Education and Science.

It is a collaborative venture involving the University of Sheffield and the city's Polytechnic, part of a £2.1 million initiative by the Science and Engineering Research Council and the Department of Trade and Industry.

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Salesman put under company pressure committed suicide

By David Nicholson-Lord

A salesman who was labelled irresponsible by his superiors for taking a holiday to celebrate his pearl wedding anniversary was under such enormous pressure that he killed himself, an inquest was told yesterday.

Mr Malcolm Hunt, aged 53, an account manager employed by Kalamazoo Business Systems, often worked more than 12 hours a day to satisfy his employers' expectations. He was told that "quality and customer satisfaction must become an obsession".

The final straw came when Mr Hunt, a father of four, who worked from home, received a letter telling him that he had been irresponsible to take the holiday and that he would have to work harder for less money, the inquest at Winchester heard.

The next day, Mrs May Hunt found her husband's body in his car in the garage. He had attached a hosepipe to the exhaust and had died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Recording a verdict of suicide on Mr Hunt, of Colden Common, near Winchester, Mr Tim Milligan, the Mid-Hampshire coroner, described the death as "a tragic waste of a good man's life".

He added: "There is so much more to life than busi-

ness schemes and striving for profit".

Mrs Hunt told the inquest that during the past few years her husband was under never-ending pressure to attain higher and, in her opinion, unrealistic sales targets.

"He was very good at his job and very meticulous but the pressure on him was enormous", she said.

Mr Hunt was described by his colleagues as "a bloody good salesman".

After the inquest, Mr Colin Beardwood, Kalamazoo's personnel director, said that he and his senior colleagues were "deeply shocked and saddened" by the death of Mr Hunt.

"We sent a formal note to Mr Hunt on October 13, expressing surprise that he took a holiday in a period when he had only achieved 46 per cent of his quota, but the comments were only confirming a meeting at which Mr Hunt had agreed to improve his performance".

Mr Tom Garnier, the chairman of Kalamazoo, last night said he was stunned by the disclosures at the inquest but rejected any charge that Mr Hunt had been under abnormal pressure.

"Sales is a high-pressure job. You are automatically under pressure to achieve

results and most people accept that as a fact of life."

Mr Garnier said Mr Hunt's was the first case in his experience where pressure of performance had led a salesman to kill himself.

Normally an individual who was having difficulty meeting his targets would be transferred to other duties for a time, and given the choice of returning to sales later.

Mr Garnier said: "We have an enviable reputation when it comes to the way in which we look after people in general at Kalamazoo and I do not think sales people are any exception".

"Everybody has to feel that providing a quality service to the customer is really the only thing that matters. Using the term obsession is a way of expressing that strongly. If you do not have satisfied customers you do not have a business."

Mr Garnier said he agreed in part with the coroner's strictures on the profit motive.

"From the individual's point of view profit is not the only thing in life. But from a commercial organization's point of view profit is the thing that enables you to fund your ideals and to give care and attention to the people you employ."

GMC sex case

Doctor suspended for year

By Howard Foster

A doctor who admitted having sexual intercourse with a patient on the floor of his surgery was suspended from the medical register for 12 months yesterday for serious professional misconduct. He was cleared by the disciplinary committee of the General Medical Council of two further charges of indecently assaulting women.

The hearing had been told that sexual encounters between Dr John Powell, aged 63, of Dodd Avenue, Myton Grange, Warwick, and a woman patient came to light after his medical partners had hired private detectives to put listening devices in his surgery.

A senior colleague of Dr Powell told yesterday's hearing that the way the doctor normally examined patients was "perfectly acceptable". Dr Robert Holmes, head of the

skin clinic at Warwick Hospital, said: "There is a very wide range of ways of examining patients among doctors."

Asked if he would be happy to have Dr Powell back under his authority, Dr Holmes said: "I don't think I know enough about everything to answer that question because I have been kept very much in the dark about matters."



Dr John Powell: cleared of two indecent assaults

A patient named only as Mrs R, towards whom Dr Powell was accused of behaving indecently, was called as a witness for the defence. She said she had not noticed the doctor fondling her or examining her in a sexual way while she was pregnant last year.

The patient, aged 21, said she had been Dr Powell's patient since she was five. He would normally ask before removing any of her clothing.

Mr Timothy Langdale, for the council, said the case was not one where gossip about a medical practitioner had clouded the view of witnesses and there was no suggestion any nursing staff had a grudge against Dr Powell. "Indeed more than one witness has spoken of him as a kind, conscientious and caring doctor."

Smiths forge a place in history



The national shire horse-shoeing champion, Mr Danny Mallender practising his skills on shire horse Vincent. The title has been held by his family since 1983. It was won for three years by his brother and partner Stephen; and last year Danny, aged 28, took the title when he made and fitted two shoes in 75 minutes. The brothers, who own a forge at Whitwell Common, near Worksop, Notts, have not won a balloted place in the National Shire Horse Show at the East of England Showground in Peterborough next Saturday, but they say: "We have had a good run so we cannot complain". (Photograph: Mark Pepper)

Electronic evidence

Man cleared as jury sees enhanced film image

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

A new electronic technique for clarifying the features of a blurred facial image has been used in a case at the Central Criminal Court.

The electronic evidence was supplied by a company in East Sussex and the Home Office laboratory at Sandridge, near St Albans, Hertfordshire, is also researching ways of enhancing video film images.

A Home Office spokesman said yesterday: "We are well aware of the complex difficulties involved in this, in particular the possible accusation that you are not enhancing but creating something entirely different."

"Before we even consider putting this into casework we would need to

be entirely satisfied that we were enhancing an image and not creating a different one."

The jury acquitted a man accused of robbery after being shown a colour video film of the event at a building society.

Mr Michael Groce, aged 25, of Francis Barber Court, Valley Road, Streatham, south-west London, was found not guilty on Thursday of robbery and possessing a handgun or imitation firearm.

The camera was pointing at the door of the premises. Two men were seen loitering outside and then entering. No pictures of the hold-up at the counter were available.

Mr Kenneth MacRae, for the prosecution, said Mr Groce was later

arrested by the Metropolitan Police at the request of Sussex police.

The jury was also shown another film of Mr Groce walking in a London Street, so a comparison could be made with the building society film.

Both films were sent by police to TCS Electronics of Hove, East Sussex.

Mr Angus Nash, managing director of the firm, who gave evidence in the court case, said: "We went along originally to try to sell a piece of apparatus to Sussex police. A police officer said: 'Will you have a look at this video and see what you can do with it?'"

Mr Nash said the case "has shaken our confidence in how we get involved helping people". He and a colleague had been exposed to the rigours of the

witness box for trying to help. "I felt a good deal of stress."

The Home Office said it did not offer image enhancement of people for casework; the only image enhancement offered was for number plates.

There was a conviction a couple of years ago after an armed robbery in the Metropolitan Police area. The Home Office laboratory at Sandridge enhanced an image of a number plate and identified a car.

During his four day trial Mr Groce strenuously denied that he was the man in the film.

Mr Groce is the son of Mrs Cherry Groce, who was accidentally shot by police and crippled during a raid on her home in September 1985. The incident led to rioting.

Midwives may be balloted on no-strike rule

By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent

Britain's 30,000 midwives may be balloted on whether to lift their no-strike ban after growing unrest over pay and underfunding in the health service.

The move, coming in the wake of a decision by the Royal College of Nursing to

ballot its members on its no-strike clause, was disclosed yesterday as 300 midwives from all over the country attended a rally in London.

The rally, calling for better pay and more responsibility for midwives, was held by the Royal College of Midwives at the Commonwealth Institute in west London.

Launching a month-long campaign the college said that

thousands of mothers had signed petitions which would be presented to health ministers. Rallies will also be staged in Birmingham and Newcastle upon Tyne.

The college said that midwives were leaving the profession "in droves" because of poor pay and lack of job satisfaction. About 17.5 per cent of midwives' posts were vacant.

Miss Ruth Ashton, the union's general secretary, emphasized that there was an increasing use of unqualified staff, a shortage of special baby-care units, and that many mothers were being sent home too soon.

Pay for staff midwives ranges from £7,400 to £8,500 a year but the Royal College of Midwives is pressing for an increase of at least £1,500.

The college meeting fore-shadowed today's TUC rally in Hyde Park Corner, which is expected to be attended by tens of thousands of health workers.

● The Prime Minister in a letter to Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, yesterday rejected the demand of a Commons committee for an extra £1 billion for the health service over the next two years.

Boy stuck on power cable for 20 minutes

A boy was in intensive care suffering from 90 per cent burns yesterday after receiving repeated electric shocks while dangling on a 25,000 volt power cable for 20 minutes.

Lee Wilding, aged 13, fell from a bridge on to cables at Earlestown rail station, near his home at Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside.

Police and firemen complained there was a 20-minute delay after they asked for the power to be switched off. Firemen were unable to move Lee because of the risk of electric shock.

British Rail said the current could not be switched off instantly because trains would stop dead, but it should be possible within minutes. The cause of the delay was being investigated.

Lee's condition was said to be critical but stable at Alder Hey Hospital.

National parks fights Mercury plans

Masts threat to landscape

By Andrew Morgan

National parks are under threat from plans by Mercury Communications to erect microwave transmitters in unspoilt areas, a watchdog body complained yesterday.

Mercury needs to build a network of transmitters on high ground and some national parks are prime areas. The Council for National Parks, comprising the Countryside Commission and the 10 national parks, believes the transmitters are unsightly and a blemish on the landscape.

Later this month, an inquiry will also hear submissions from North Wales police for a 200 ft radio tower at Waun Oer, in the Snowdonia National Park, which it says is vital for its work. Car-phone companies, hoping to dot the landscape with masts, are also seen as a threat.

One Mercury tower has just

been allowed on appeal near Kendal in the south of the Lake District, just outside the park boundary. A second application for a steel lattice tower, 153 ft high, at Sandy Crag, near Cockerham, has gone to appeal after the Northern Ireland national park committee refused planning permission.

Mercury, the main rival to British Telecom, says that a mast at Sandy Crag provides a vital link in a microwave route connecting Newcastle upon Tyne and Edinburgh, but the park authority believes it an inappropriate development.

Mercury submitted an alternative application for a site just outside the park, but the local district council refused it. Appeals on both will be heard in May.

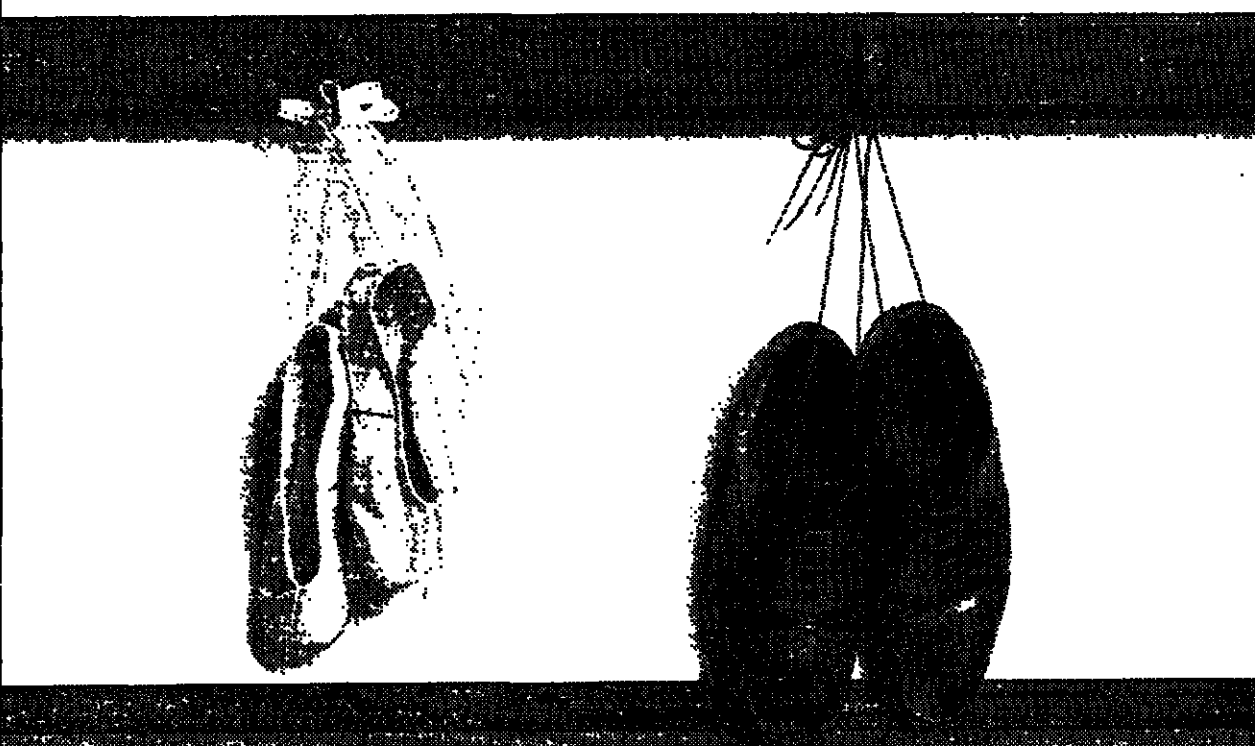
However, the council is

pleased at a decision by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, to reject an appeal by Mercury against the refusal of the North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority to allow a 100 ft mast at Arncliffe Woods in the Cleveland Hills.

At the Northumberland inquiry, consultants submitted a computer-produced map of the "zone of visual intrusion". This showed the area from which the mast would be visible and the council said it would be highly conspicuous.

The council suggested Mercury had completed work early on the least contentious parts of its national link, due for completion by 1991, in an effort to force the hand of the national parks, where planning applications have been left until now.

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Contemporary Dance Trust is an integrated dance organisation founded 21 years ago to be of service to and through dance. It runs a School, a Theatre and a Performing Company (London Contemporary Dance Theatre), one of the most celebrated in the world. It produces a varied and stimulating modern dance repertoire and is heavily involved in education and community activities. This year, we want to recruit an outstanding Chief Executive for the Trust and an equally outstanding Artistic Director for the Company, who will make a great (an artistic and administrative) contribution to the Trust as their predecessors.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The Artistic Director will be responsible for all the Company's artistic work. His/her main task will be to continue the development of LCDT as an exciting and forward-looking company, producing varied works of quality and will include touring with the Company. Ideally applicants should come from the world of dance, although candidates with sympathy for dance will be considered.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive will manage the affairs of the Trust, advising upon the best strategy and structure for carrying out policy and co-ordinating all its activities. He/she will work closely with the Artistic Director and should be able to give guidance, set priorities (within established policy), listen and communicate and advise or direct when necessary. He/she will be ultimately responsible for all non-artistic matters within the Trust.

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Please write enclosing CV to Robin Howard, Chairman, Contemporary Dance Trust Ltd, 17 Dukes Road, London WC1H 9AB.

£125,000 price for Greuze painting

Mr Anthony Mould, the young London dealer with a name for making discoveries on the art market, has done it again with an important portrait by the French eighteenth-century painter Jean-Baptiste Greuze.

He bought the painting of a wistful little girl, catalogued as "circle of Greuze" at Christie's in London for £16,000 nine months ago. Having had it authenticated by the art historian and Booker Prize winner Anita Brookner, he is now asking £125,000. It is the highlight in his exhibition of child portraits opening on Monday.

In the catalogue, Dr Brookner describes the painting as "a superior work and almost entirely unknown", presenting a theory that it is an original study for the errant daughter in a picture entitled "La Veuve et son Curé", at the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad.

It was originally in the collection of Sir David Salomons, of Broomhill, Kent. His family sold it in June 1900, from which moment it disappeared from sight.

The controversy over a



The portrait of a child now attributed to Greuze.

water-colour attributed to the English artist John Martin by Sotheby's, but questioned by two world experts, drew to a close yesterday with the auction house advising the owner to withdraw it from its March 10 sale.

It concluded yesterday: "It has proved impossible to substantiate the case for or against the picture, through lack of evidence."

The dinosaur gallery of the

SALE ROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

Natural History Museum doubled as an auction room on Thursday night for a very successful sale of 120 prints from Banks's *Florilegium*, botanical engravings of the exotic plants collected by Joseph Banks during Captain Cook's voyage around the world in the late 1760s and drawn by Sydney Parkinson. Their extra appeal is that, after being bequeathed to the British Museum by Banks, the engravings have only just been printed.

Compared to what the art market is capable of, prices were modest: the highest being £1,600 (estimate £600 to £700) for a print of *Thespesia populnea*, or Portia tree - a yellow-flowered variety found at the Society Islands in 1769, and distinctive because its yellow blooms redden with the dusk.

An engraving of the *Ipomoea indica* - a powder-blue flower from the Endeavour River area in

Australia - fetched £1,300 against an estimate of half that price.

Christie's completed its two-day British and Irish traditionalist and modernist sale yesterday, with two world records, for Glyn Philpot and John Armstrong.

The Philpot painting, "Entrance to the Tagada", sold to the Fine Art Society for £94,600 (estimate £20,000 to £30,000).

The strange, desolate landscape of the English surrealist Armstrong, entitled "Pro Patria", was bought by the dealer Peter Nahum for £27,500 (estimate up to £6,000). Other high prices included £37,400 (estimate £10,000 to £15,000) for an English landscape by Lucien Pissarro. The total for the second day was £606,540, with 11 per cent unsold.

Scottish slopes vie with French resorts for best ski value

By Howard Foster

France has emerged as the ski destination offering the best value for money in mainland Europe, according to the latest figures produced by a leading tour company.

For those prepared to take a risk on the consistency of the piste, *The Times* has discovered that the Cairngorms are better value still.

According to Thomas Cook, the enviable good snow record and the extensive ski areas of the French mountains are attracting an increasing number of holidaymakers. Austria is the next best buy and the Italians are next. The Swiss emerge as the costliest slopes to cavort on.

Of the eight destinations chosen for analysis by the company, the French village of Châtel was the best overall value. Les Deux Alpes was

fourth. Two Austrian resorts, Seefeld and Westendorf, were second and third in terms of value respectively.

However, when the price of catering and ski equipment hire was taken into account, Aviemore in Scotland was the cheapest, according to figures supplied to *The Times*.

An alcohol-free, three-course dinner for one in Westendorf would cost £23.06. Crans Montana in Switzerland offers scarcely better value at £20.55. Thomas Cook's favourite, Châtel, supplies starter, main course and pudding for someone dining *tout seul* for £11.92. At Aviemore, soup, roll and butter, chicken and trimmings and a sweet costs £4.10.

Surprisingly, Austria's Bad Hofgastein provided the cheapest litre of house wine at £2.20. The Italians, largest

producers of wine in the world, charge £2.74 at Courmayeur. The Swiss resorts mentioned — Crans Montana and Saas Fee — charge a firmly regulated £9.04 per litre. Tax-laden Aviemore charges £7.50.

Thomas Cook recommends that visiting Britons pack a box of teabags with ski jackets and snow boots because people such as the Swiss seem happy to charge in excess of £1 for one cup. Not surprisingly, a cup in the Cairngorms is 40p, 20p cheaper than its nearest European rival.

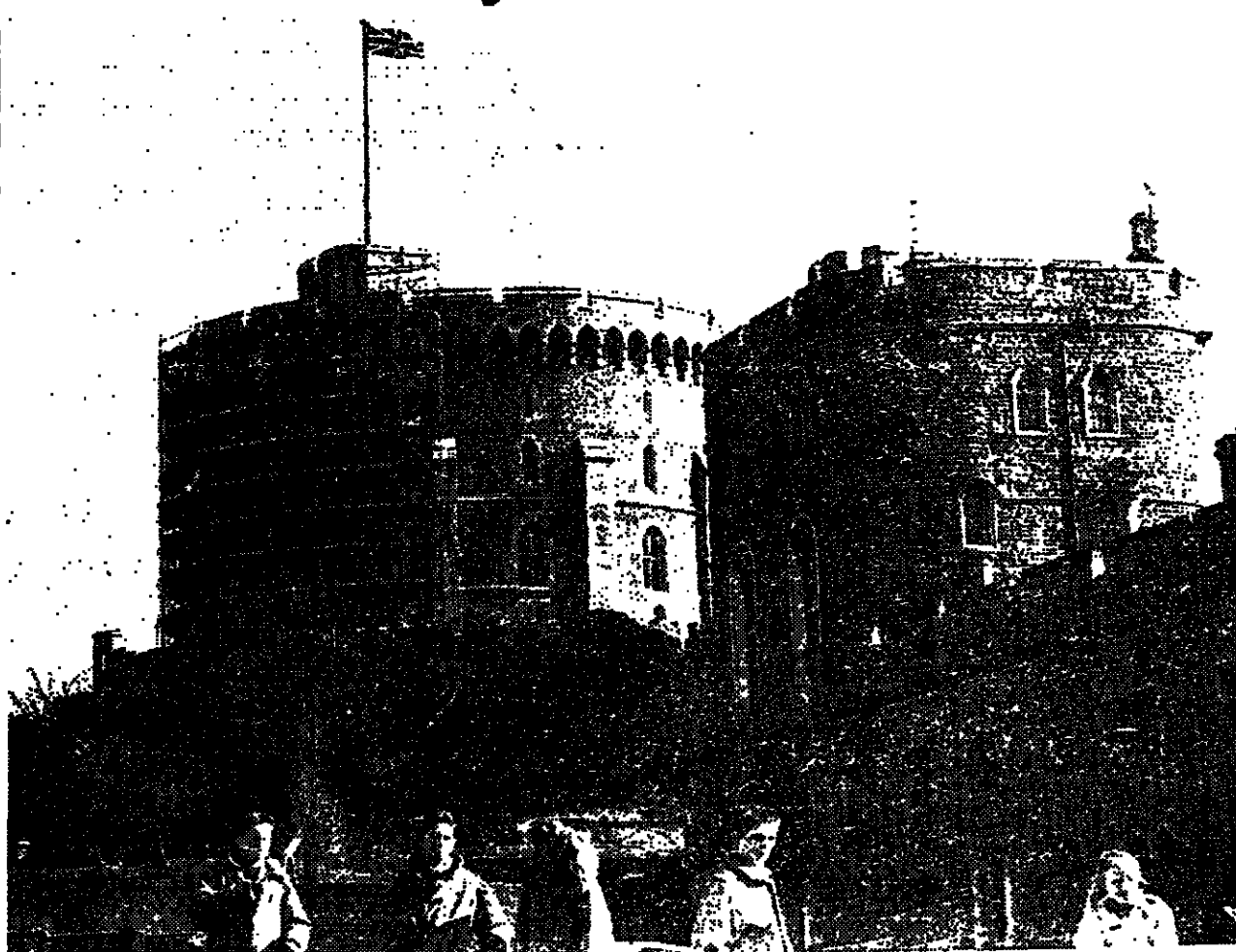
A postcard home to one's neighbours from Saas Fee would certainly look more stylish than one from a possibly brown-sloped Scottish hillcock, but it would cost exactly twice the price. The film for the camera costs the same in Aviemore as it does in one of the Austrian resorts. At £2.20, this is less than half the price of a film in Les Deux Alpes in France.

Once on the slopes, Switzerland maintains its costly image. Saas Fee charges £74 for a six-day lift pass. Westendorf in Austria charges £50 and Aviemore £52.50 although the school there emphasizes that a package of ski school, ski sticks, boots and unlimited lift pass for six days can cost £100 in the high season.

"Figures issued at the end of December reveal that the perennial winter sports favourite, Austria, has slipped 3 per cent in market share but has still attracted an increase of 15 per cent in actual passengers", Thomas Cook said.

"Switzerland has also lost some of her market share but will be gratified by the fact that the number of passengers visiting the country has remained constant."

Cracks worry at Windsor Castle



Scaffolding against the Round Tower at Windsor Castle as cracks are investigated (Photograph: Julian Herbert).

The Department of the Environment is investigating cracks that have appeared in the Round Tower at Windsor Castle. But the department yesterday dismissed reports that the castle had been seriously damaged by subsidence, and said it was far too early to assess what repairs were needed.

The department said cracks up to half-an-inch wide had been found in the tower. "But we do not yet know what has

caused this, and subsidence is only one possibility.

"The heavy rain this winter, notably in the Thames Valley, could be responsible for some soil erosion. But these are early days yet, and it will be some time before we can make any assessment of the likely cost."

Windsor Castle is said to be the Queen's favourite residence, which she much prefers to Buckingham Palace. As

one of the royal palaces, it remains the responsibility of the Government's Property Services Agency, as distinct from most other notable public buildings which were hived off to English Heritage when the department was partly privatized some years ago.

The Round Tower was built by Edward III and, as the highest point of the castle, is used to display the Royal Standard when the Queen is in residence.

16.9% rise in house prices

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

House prices increased by 16.9 per cent in the year to the end of February, compared with 16.3 per cent to the end of January, the Halifax Building Society announced yesterday.

It said this increase, which shows the property market generally has not been affected by the stock market crash of October, was "not entirely unexpected".

Over the past five years there has been a seasonal fall in the society's house price index between December and January, followed by a rise in February to above the December figure, which was 15.8 per cent in 1987.

In the three months to the end of February, house prices rose by 3.3 per cent compared with only 2.7 per cent in the same period last year.

East Anglia showed the highest increase last year, overtaking London and the South-east, and price rises there are expected to be around 40 per cent annually by the end of March. The Halifax index showed the increase during 1987 to be 30 per cent.

Judges see trial 'revolution'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Senior judges, government officials, lawyers, and police will sit in a mock courtroom next week for the first demonstration of how computers and other high technology equipment are set to revolutionize fraud trials and cut costs by hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Over three days they will be shown the latest equipment, some of which is being used in a mortgage fraud trial at the Central Criminal Court and is planned for use in two more big trials in the next six months.

It is estimated to have cut three months off the current trial at the Central Criminal Court; a saving of £150,000 in court time alone apart from fees of counsel.

Lord Justice Neill, chairman of the Lord Chancellor's committee on information technology and the courts, which is co-sponsoring the seminars, said yesterday that they would give everyone involved in prosecuting frauds a chance to see what the technology could do.

But he agreed that there could be problems: one was cost, another — particularly with graphics — was whether

evidence was presented neutrally, and a third was ensuring that the defence had equal access to the equipment to put its case, and the Crown's resources did not outweigh those of the defendant.

In the current computerized trial at the Central Criminal Court, involving alleged mortgage fraud and fake social security claims, some 7,500 items have been put on seven computer disks and can be called up on 17 monitors in the courtroom.

The saving from not having to copy photographs for every-one in court is estimated at £10,000.

Among the uses of equipment to be shown to judges, which were demonstrated yesterday at a preview, were computer graphics and digitalized images to present evidence.

Mr Mark Tantam, from the Serious Fraud Office, said: "This avoids the original evidence having to be shown throughout the trial to jurors or being tampered with. It can be displayed on the monitors, enabling counsel to take jurors carefully through it. In these trials they have to assimilate a

lot of information in the early stages."

Large display monitors or desk top terminals can be used to show jurors evidence such as fingerprints, or handwriting, and graphic images can be built up to illustrate the stages in a case.

When the Criminal Justice Bill comes into force, live video links will be used to take evidence from abroad, or with children, from a separate room.

"An expert witness can be in the United States, explaining a graph which can be shown at the same time by screen in the courtroom," Mr Tantam said.

The seminars, at the Metropolitan Police training school at Hendon, north-west London are being jointly sponsored by the Lord Chancellor's committee on information technology and the courts, which draws its members from the Bar, Crown Prosecution Service, Home Office, Law Society, Lord Chancellor's Department and Society for Computers and the Law.

Other co-sponsors are the Metropolitan and City Police Company Fraud Department and the Serious Fraud Office.

Telecom share MP has plea rejected

Keith Best, the barrister and former Tory MP found guilty of making multiple applications for British Telecom shares, was yesterday refused leave to appeal against conviction.

In the Court of Appeal, Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Boreham and Mr Justice Phillimore, ruled that the jury at Southwark Crown Court in south London was correct to find that Best, aged 38, had been dishonest.

In the first case of its kind, Best was jailed in September for dishonestly attempting to obtain Telecom shares by making six applications.

In October, his four month prison sentence was quashed on appeal but the £3,000 fine was increased by £1,500.

Lord Lane said the jury came to the conclusion there was a rule, one man one application, and that Mr Best knew the rule was in operation. It also agreed that he had deliberately flouted the rule with a degree of sophistication and therefore what he did was dishonest.

PC sentenced

Craig Johnston, aged 19, a reserve constable at Newry RUC station, Co Down, who accidentally shot dead a colleague last year, was given a conditional discharge for two years at Downpatrick Crown Court, Craigavon, yesterday. He admitted manslaughter.

Victim retires

Mr Christopher Gisham, aged 55, a teacher, of Acres Lane, Heswall, Wirral, who was seriously hurt in a hammer attack almost a year ago by two boys aged 14 and 15, has had to retire on medical grounds.

Ethnic records

Colleges should keep records of the ethnic origin of all applicants for places and not just students, the Commission for Racial Equality says in response to a promised government paper on the need for ethnic monitoring by colleges.

£1,500 award

Dominic Johnson, aged 29, a former Oxford University student, of Brixton, south-west London, whose nose was broken during a demonstration at All Souls College in December 1984, has been awarded £1,500 from the Thames Valley Police Authority.

Chemical leak

Eighteen people were taken to hospital yesterday when chemical vapour leaked from a machine after a fire at the NFI factory in Newport, Isle of Wight, which makes printed circuit boards.

Cliff escape

A woman escaped with bruises after falling off Beachy Head at Eastbourne, East Sussex, yesterday. She fell 60 feet to a ledge from which she was winched to safety.

Community service orders

Hurd wants tougher policy

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The Government is to toughen community service orders in an attempt to encourage greater use of non-custodial sentencing and reduce overcrowding in prisons.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, will issue new guidelines making the orders more demanding and disciplined and aimed at overcoming the reluctance of courts to impose them, particularly for offences involving young offenders.

He is also studying longer term proposals for providing punishment in the community for young people who are borderline cases for custodial sentencing.

Mr Hurd said yesterday: "We use custody more in

Britain than any other major Western European country, despite the fact that we have a lower level of violent crime."

"Tough prison sentences are needed for serious crimes, especially those involving violence but in other cases custody should be used sparingly."

Although community service orders account for 8 per cent of sentences for indictable offences, the Home Office wants the figure to rise further and believes they are a "soft" option can be overcome.

Mr Hurd told Conservatives in Gloucester that in spite of a prison building programme which would pro-

vide an extra 22,000 new places by the mid 1990s at a cost of £950 million, Britain faced a worsening problem of overcrowding.

There were 48,900 people in prison and a further 1,500 in police cells at the end of last week.

He is investigating ways in which there could be a greater private sector role in looking after remand prisoners whose numbers have doubled in eight years.

Private management may be introduced into remand centres which could involve service being contracted out and the introduction of private management into remand centres.

PARLIAMENT

Thatcher mocks Labour 'claptrap' over Nato

The Labour Party had no memory, no stomach, no spine and no guts: Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Commons to cheer from the support during exchanges following her statement on the Nato summit in Brussels.

Mr Kinnock was talking claptrap, she said, when the Leader of the Opposition said that she wanted to multiply armaments under the guise of modernization.

To laughter from Conservative MPs, Mr Kinnock referred to the Prime Minister's "failure to get what she wanted out of the summit".

He said that before the Brussels meeting, Chancellor Kohl of West Germany had agreed in Washington not to press for the third zero on tactical weapons in return for the American reassurance that nuclear modernization would receive no priority.

"It is obvious, therefore, that the Prime Minister was effectively sidelined by this manoeuvre before she even got to Brussels."

The Prime Minister had said that she favoured strongly the bold changes in the Soviet Union for the sake of the Russian people and to increase international stability. But the pressures she wanted to impose by the rearmament that would come from the form of modernization that she wanted would insert the greatest possible impediment to the changes everyone wanted to see in the Soviet Union.

If the Prime Minister wanted to stop and reverse a build up of arms, she could do it by fostering agreements which secured an arms build-down. It was clear, however, that she wanted under the guise of modernization, to bring about the multiplication of armaments.

Mrs Thatcher: I sat for nearly two days in Nato, listening to many speeches, including some from Socialist heads of government, and I have not heard such claptrap as I have heard today. This country's Socialist party is totally out of step with every other one in Europe, and ab-

solutely no wonder because it is virtually a CND Socialist party."

The Government had got precisely what it had wanted out of the summit in modernizing nuclear weapons. Mr Kinnock was "out of step with each and every other country in Nato."

"It is vital that we should negotiate on a basis of strength."

Sir Antony Back (Colchester North, C) said that an important feature was the improved position of the relationship between France and Nato.

Mrs Thatcher said that the presence of President Mitterrand at the summit was encouraging. She had put several proposals to him about, for example, being able to practice reinforcement through France's Channel ports and airports in case of any alert.

"I hope that we shall soon be able to do this. This was evidence of further close co-operation between France's forces and the Nato structure."

Mr Paddy Ashdown (Yeovil, SLD) said that it was welcome that wider heads in Nato had forced her away from unilateralism in seeking to raise the number of nuclear weapons.

Mrs Thatcher said that only one party was willing to keep a sure defence and to deter an aggressor. Mr Ashdown's party did not have a policy.

"We are determined to keep defence and deterrence sure. That does mean modernizing nuclear weapons."

All British objectives at the Nato summit in Brussels this week had been fully achieved, the Prime Minister told MPs in a statement. She stressed the continued build-up of armaments by the Soviet Union and the "Nato leaders' agreement on deterrence through both nuclear and conventional forces that would be kept up to date where necessary."

In her statement, Mrs Thatcher referred to the bold reforms of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. At the same time, she said, there had been no let up in the Soviet Union's extensive military modernization programmes, including its shorter-range nuclear missiles.

The Nato leaders needed therefore to set guidelines for future action.

Britain had approached the summit with clear objectives. "These objectives were very fully and satisfactorily achieved."

First, a strong reaffirmation of the vital link between the security of Europe and that of North America. It was particularly important to remind

people of this in a presidential election year in the United States.

Second, all heads of government agreed on "a strategy of deterrence based on an appropriate mix of adequate and effective nuclear and conventional forces, which will continue to be kept up to date where necessary."

Third, any further reductions in nuclear weapons after Start (strategic arms reduction talks) would only come about in conjunction with the establishment of conventional balance and the global elimination of chemical weapons.

"It is quite clear that Nato is determined to avoid a third nuclear zero."

This summit, convened as a result of a British initiative, successfully reaffirmed the strategy that had kept the peace in Europe for 40 years.

"It is on the basis of such sure defence that we are able to welcome the reforms which are taking place in the Soviet Union and to enter into further negotiations to reduce the level of weaponry."

Northwood, C) said that it was totally irresponsible for the Labour Party to advocate the modernization and improvement of neither Britain's conventional forces nor its nuclear forces.

Mrs Thatcher agreed. Governments of all kinds, including socialist governments, had fully endorsed improvement.

Mr Michael Allison (Selby, C) recalled St Augustine's observation that memory was the stomach of the mind. The fact that the Labour Party had no stomach for maintaining a proper balance in effective defence, including a nuclear balance, was merely a reflection of the fact that it had no memory of the holocaust which flowed from pre-war appeasement and one-sided military weakness (Labour protests).

Mrs Thatcher: I think he is absolutely correct. Labour has no memory, no stomach, no spine and no guts (Conservative cheers).

Mr Peter Shore (Bethnal Green and Stepney, Lab) asked whether the Prime Minister really believed that it was possible to make much progress towards reductions in conventional weapons in Europe without, at the same time, embarking upon parallel negotiations to reduce the number of

battlefield nuclear weapons already placed in the European theatre?

Mrs Thatcher said that they had all agreed that the next priority was asymmetrical reductions in conventional weapons because the Soviet Union had such a great superiority and, if possible, a global ban on chemical weapons, although the verification problems involved were enormous.

Mr North West, C) asked if closer cooperation between Britain and France might include co-operation on defence equipment procurement and manufacture?

Mrs Thatcher said that there had been a great deal of bilateral discussions between Britain and France, trying all the time to get more practical co-operation between the military forces of France and Nato and that seemed to be forthcoming.

Although France would not rejoin Nato, it would closely cooperate with its conventional and nuclear forces, although the latter might be much more difficult.

Mrs Joan Ruddock (Lewisham, Deptford, Lab) wondered whether "necessary modernization" included the replacement

of free-fall Tornado bombs.

Mrs Thatcher said that in due course it would be necessary to update free-fall bombs.

In response to Mr Hugh Dykes (Harrow East, C), she said that she thought that there was no possibility at present of France returning to the military structure of Nato. France had been present at the summit as part of the political structure of the Western alliance.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said that many MPs were delighted that the Prime Minister had come back from Nato without getting entirely her own way.

Mrs Thatcher was speaking with two voices. On the one hand she said she was delighted to do business with Mr Gorbachev. On the other she was doing everything she could to strengthen those military forces in the Soviet Union who undermined him.

Mrs Thatcher: In fact we won. She said that the Nato draft was British. "There was no debate about whether or not nuclear forces needed to be modernized. Everyone agreed that they did."

Britain welcomed the Soviet reforms. But if it all fell apart and there was trouble or not returned to a much more Stalin-like figure, Nato's defences were there because the necessary decisions had been taken in time.

Mr Robert Cryer (Bradford South, Lab) Why doesn't the Prime Minister commit suicide if she is frightened of the Russians and allow the rest of us to go and negotiate with that bold leader Mr Gorbachev?

Mrs Thatcher said that after the last war the West had not chosen to make the Soviet Union an enemy. "They chose to be one. After they chose to have a heavy programme of rearmament, Nato was formed."

Nato had kept the peace in Europe for 40 years and enabled MPs to continue this kind of statement and debate of which Mr Cryer was the first to take advantage.

Chief Rabbi gives thanks to Britain

But for the grace of God and the compassionate haven of "this great country", Lord Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi, told peers, he would be an anonymous speck among the ashes of millions defiling the soil of Europe. He was speaking during second reading of the Immigration Bill.

In his maiden speech in the House of Lords, he said that it was important to remember that they were all temporary residents of this planet and every one had to learn the art of living together in harmony before "our wise expires".

He said that unlike other peers who had come up from the ground floor, he had been lifted from the basement of refugees — from the lower sewers of Nazi oppression and humiliation.

His experience as a refugee and a rabbi had a bearing on immigration policy and he believed that he was qualified to draw a lesson on the philosophy of life applicable to both hosts and immigrants.

Below the ground floor, people had to work harder. Many children no longer knew what it was to struggle. The experience of treasuring freedom was often alien to them.

Britain's youth might learn from minorities fighting for equality never to take anything for granted. The newer arrivals to these shores might feel encouraged that, by rising the hard way, they were making a special contribution to the moral dynamic as well as the cultural richness of the nation.

The Bishop of Ripon, Dr David Young, said that the Bill would unsettle and disturb many members of the ethnic minorities in Britain.



Lord Jakobovits: Lifted from sewers of Nazi oppression, newcomers which any society can absorb.

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Earl Ferrers, Minister of State, Home Office, moving second reading of the Bill, which requires would-be immigrants to prove a right of abode in Britain before travelling, said that it was undeniable that there was a limit to the number of

WORLD ROUND

35 die in Puerto Rico holiday massacre

Shuttle on San Juan target

£5m damages

Basques strike

Three police

Doctors

To cure try extra

RAINBOW

POWER SHOW

WORLD ROUNDUP

35 die in Punjab holiday massacre

Delhi - Sikh extremists armed with automatic rifles and machine guns burst into a gathering of Punjab villagers celebrating one of India's most important holidays yesterday and opened fire, killing at least 35 people and wounding nearly 40 others (A Correspondent writes). The attack occurred shortly after midnight in the village of Karisan in Hoshiarpur District in north-eastern Punjab. Police said that many of the victims - both Hindus and Sikhs - were in a serious condition in local hospitals.

While Punjab police launched a manhunt, security forces were put on alert throughout Punjab and in Delhi to prevent a backlash. No incidents were reported.

Responsibility for the attack was claimed by the Khalistan Commando Force, one of a dozen underground Sikh separatist groups operating in Punjab.

Shuttle on Smoking target

Washington - The National Research Council said yesterday that its 18-month review of the Challenger disaster had found no "show stoppers" that would delay the next space shuttle launch, now tentatively scheduled for August 4 (Mohsin Ali writes).

The 12-member committee that examined NASA's efforts to recover from the Challenger explosion two years ago, called for problems to be brought to the immediate attention of top officials rather than being channelled through the network of safety review panels existing previously. NASA said it had already acted on most of the recommendations.

£5m damages award

Houston (NYT) - A jury yesterday ordered the magazine *Soldier of Fortune* to pay \$9.4 million (about £5.2 million) in damages to the family of a woman whose husband hired her killer through a classified advertisement in the magazine. The jury, in a civil suit for negligence, found that the magazine knew or should have known that the advertisement was offering the services of a hired killer. The magazine, whose editor described it as a military journal, is to appeal.

The case involved Sandra Black, who was shot dead in her kitchen in Bryan, Texas, in 1985. John Wayne Hearn is serving three life sentences for her murder and two other contract murders. Robert Black, Mrs Black's husband, is on death row for paying Hearn \$10,000 to kill his wife.

Basques strike

Madrid - Despite a patchy response to a general strike call by Basque separatist supporters to protest against the death in a Spanish prison of an Eta activist, crowds of Eta supporters took to the streets as the activist was buried in his home town of Tolosa (Harry Debelius writes).

Despite a coroner's report stating that Mikel Lopetegui hanged himself, the pro-Eta political coalition Herri Batasuna (People's Unity) alleged that he was murdered by guards or police.

In San Sebastian, where there was some support for the strike, demonstrators set fire to two city buses and set up barricades.

Three police killed

Bonn - Three Bavarian policemen were shot dead and another wounded yesterday when a man charged into a country police station near Munich and opened fire with a pistol (John England writes). The man, a Yugoslav, was seriously hurt in a subsequent shoot-out with a passing police car patrol. Police said the man ran into the station at Dorfen, 24 miles east of Munich, shortly after they had searched his flat for a suspected illegal weapon. Police later named the gunman as Slobodan Stefanovic, aged 37, who was in a critical condition in hospital with a head wound.

Dixie takes to rich Yankees after all

"Super Tuesday" is turning out to be a fiasco. It was meant to give a greater national voice to the South and rally support around a conservative Southern candidate. Instead, the likely overall winners will be outsiders with few regional ties: Governor Michael Dukakis, a liberal New England Democrat, and Vice-President George Bush, who made his home in Texas but hails from New England and has spent most of his life outside the South. And the man who stands to benefit most, the Rev Jesse Jackson, espouses liberal policies that will drive white Democrats into the arms of the Republicans in record numbers.

The conservative Democrats, who persuaded the 14 Southern and border states to band together, wanted to create a counterweight to Iowa and New Hampshire, forcing candidates to spend more time in the South to woo voters. Instead, the contenders in both parties concentrated on the two Northern states to establish momentum. Since New Hampshire they have had a bare three weeks to skim through the old confederacy. They have touched down at airports, visited the metropolitan areas, television studios and

satellite centres. But they have had no time to plunge into the heartlands, get to know Dixie and its concerns. In past years candidates have returned regularly to the South from March until the end of the primary season in June.

This year the huge, diverse region will be kissed off in one day, and after Tuesday no candidate will waste time south of the Mason-Dixon line for the rest of the campaign.

The one Democrat from the South who based his whole candidacy on regional loyalty appears to be the big loser. Senator Albert Gore has seen his support level off, while Mr Dukakis and Mr Jackson have been nothing but impressive gains in the polls. Even Mr Richard Gephardt, who abandoned the South to consolidate his campaign in Iowa, is doing better than Mr Gore. The Tennessee, hailed by governors and other bigwigs as the region's favourite son, will probably end up with the most endorsements and fewest votes. His strategy of saving his powder for the Southern campaign appears to have backfired.

Super Tuesday was also meant to filter out a winner from the crowded

race. Some 1,450 Democratic and 750 Republican delegates are at stake in the 14 Southern states and six others involved. By March 9 a third of each party's total number of delegates will have been selected. It is almost a national primary. But its

Washington View

By Michael Binyon

very size and diversity has given each candidate his own hunting ground.

Mr Dukakis, a fluent Spanish speaker, will garner the Hispanic vote in Texas and Florida, while his liberal views and Jewish wife will deliver him the votes of Yankee retirees in Florida and the intellectuals of university communities.

Mr Gephardt can mine the resentment and job fears of blue-collar voters across the region, with a solid base of support also in his home state of Missouri. Mr Jackson has the black vote and, increasingly, the attention of labour unions.

And Mr Gore has his home state of Tennessee in the bag, as well as what remains of regional loyalty and the white conservative vote. Mr

Dukakis may emerge with the most delegates because Massachusetts and other Northern states will go for him. But the South cannot claim to have picked the winner.

On the Republican side, things are clearer. Mr Bush now seems to have the vote sewn up, and has fended off a challenge from Mr Pat Robertson. Senator Robert Dole is likely to be soundly beaten, especially in the delegate-rich states of Texas and Florida. Mr Jack Kemp will probably have to withdraw next week, leaving the party with only three candidates and a clear front-runner.

Nevertheless, Mr Robertson may still emerge with a sizeable chunk of the vote, especially in states where Democrats are allowed to cross over and vote for Republicans. His presence may increase the ideological tensions within the party. Many traditional Republicans are increasingly worried by Mr Robertson's views and his religious background, and even Southern conservatives are finding him too extreme for their liking. If he does well in South Carolina today, he will be a powerful force to reckon with at the Republican convention.

Super Tuesday will probably go

badly for Mr Dole. Though attempting to portray himself as more conservative than Mr Bush, he has failed to make a mark among this powerful group. He has just been endorsed by Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the feisty former US representative to the United Nations, who is one of the leading conservative activists in the US today.

But it may be too late to turn around his campaign, plagued as it is by disorganization - he abruptly sacked two conservative advisers last week - and by his unpredictable temperament.

In the end, it appears that money and television advertising will make the crucial difference. The more candidates spend on political commercials, the better they do. Mr Dukakis and Mr Bush are surging ahead because they have the money. Mr Gephardt has seen a marked increase in support where he has been able to run his slick commercials, but he has too little money to blanket the South.

It is a depressing reaffirmation of the old adage that what really makes the difference in US elections is money. Not even the South could change that.

Trial witness claims white link to bomb in Namibia

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A black official in Namibia, Mr Oswald Shivute, has claimed that two white men were seen leaving a parcel in a bank in Oshakati minutes before a bomb exploded in the building on February 19. Fourteen people were killed instantly and 12 others have since died from their injuries.

Mr Shivute, the secretary to the Ovamboland legislative assembly in northern Namibia, where Oshakati is located, made the claim in evidence at the trial in Cape Town earlier this week of Dr Ivan Toms, a 35-year-old white doctor sentenced to 630 days in jail for refusing to do military service.

One of the reasons given by Dr Toms for his refusal to serve was the number of atrocities allegedly committed by the South African Army in Namibia, and the fact that South Africa's presence there was against international law.

Mr Shivute told the court he was carrying out his own investigation into the blast and had spoken to witnesses and to some of the injured in hospital.

"They said that while they were in the bank two white men in suits came in with a parcel which had money on top of it. They put it on the counter and left. The packet was apparently making noises like a watch and people in the queue began to faint, apart from the man in the queue who came from the packet. While people were still speculating on the parcel, there was an explosion," he said.

There were whites among the victims, including the wife of a police officer.

Chief Inspector Kierie du Rand of the South-West Africa police said yesterday in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, that he knew nothing of such allegations and could only assume that Mr Shivute "has malicious intentions with the spreading of this type of information".

The South-West Africa Territory Force, the Namibian wing of the South African Defence Force, has blamed the bombing at the time on the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo), the guerrilla movement fighting for Namibia's independence.

In a statement circulated yesterday in Windhoek, however, the exiled Swapo leader, Mr Sam Nujoma, repeated earlier denials of Swapo responsibility, claiming the bombing "followed a familiar and consistent pattern of countless atrocities by the agents of apartheid and colonialism in our country".

NEW YORK - In a hard-hitting speech South Africa's delegate to the United Nations told the Security Council to "do your damndest" in response to Pretoria's latest crackdown on opposition and then stormed out of the chamber (Zoriana Pysarski writes).

The session, summoned at the request of the African group, was part of a vendetta against South Africa and the hypocrisy that lay behind it was almost comical. Mr Leslie Manley said. The council is the only UN body where South Africa has had the right to participate since its delegation was ejected from the General Assembly in 1974.

US Navy greets the Yorks

From Charles Bremner, Los Angeles

"The duck will be catapulted off the deck at 160 knots," said the briefing officer on board the USS Nimitz.

Was this some cruel punishment for overstaying his Californian welcome, one cynic wondered? "He will," the officer added, "be aboard an aircraft."

After six days promoting British goods and exceeding the brief Californian attention span, the "fun-loving royals" had at last escaped from their cocoon of security and were immersed in something up their street - aeroplanes.

Under a hazy Pacific sky the Duke and Duchess of York were on board the world's biggest warship, 100 miles offshore from the Los Angeles traffic jams, being treated to a private display of aerial might.

But it was not the spectacular fly-past of the supersonic Tomcats, nor the nuclear-powered carrier, that had lured the handclapping royal watchers of British journalism to start the day at 5am. They had come for the event of the week - the catapulting of "the duck".

After a bloodcurdling demonstration of the dangerous business of being hurled by steam catapult off a short deck at nearly 200mph, the Duke was shown how to use an ejector seat. He donned flying gear and bade farewell to his wife with an uncertain air.

"This is the loneliest walk I've ever taken," he shouted and sat in the co-pilot's seat of the S4 Viking jet, very different from the helicopters he is used to. A roar and a puff of smoke and the Duke disappeared over the edge, then up into the sky, "I wish I could do it, too," said the Duchess, whose pregnancy barred any such thing. She followed by humble helicopter with the press thundering behind in aerial pursuit like a scene from *Apocalypse Now*.

For once, this was the Duke's day in a trip on which he has been severely eclipsed by his wife, whether shaking hands with robots or entertain-



The Duchess of York, in US Navy flying gear, clutching a teddy bear given to her when she visited USS Nimitz.

ing the world with tales of the royal loo.

"The Duke of York is turning out to be the man who accompanied Fergie to Los Angeles," said the *Los Angeles Times* yesterday. It was to prevent any dual offence that the security men ordered a group of Chinatown businessmen to remove a banner over a shop on her route that read: "Welcome Fergie and What's His Name".

But even the Duchess was wearing thin on the Angelinos by the time the royal couple

left yesterday for a weekend in Palm Springs. "Is she still here?" yawned one television anchorman as the day's brief royal report recorded the dual presence. A week is a long time in Los Angeles, a place where stars can rise and fall in days.

Undoubtedly the royal couple boosted Britain - the aim of the trip - but both local newspapers suggested that they might have done better to have spent less time with *Range Rovers* and British film stars and a bit more with California life.

Tehran rally at Soviet embassy

From A Correspondent, Bahrain

Iraq reported yesterday that it had fired another long-range missile into Tehran, the 25th to strike the Iranian capital in five days. The two-way bombardment of civilian targets is unprecedented in the Gulf conflict, now in its eighth year.

Although the latest attack indicated no let-up in the "missile war of the cities", an Iranian leader hinted that Iran would stop firing missiles at Baghdad if the Iraqis ceased their own long-distance shelling of Tehran. Iran's Islamic Republic news agency said 30 people had been killed and about 130 wounded in Tehran before yesterday's attack.

The Iranians have fired 11 missiles of their own into the Iraqi city since Monday, and have warned Iraqi citizens to get out of the danger areas. Iraqi communiques, while offering no casualty figures, said the population of Baghdad was taking part in evacuation drills.

Iraq, which also has hit the holy Muslim city of Qom with three missiles, says that its attacks are aimed at forcing Iran to accept the United Nations Security Council's ceasefire demand as well as to protect Iraq's people.

Shortly before the latest Iraqi attack, the Iranian news agency reported that citizens had staged a protest march outside the Soviet Embassy after claims by Iranian officials that the long-range missiles used by Iraq were supplied by the Soviet Union. Iraq denies this, insisting that its weapons were designed and built in Iraq.

Independent military analysts say the missiles most probably are Soviet-designed Scud Bs, a tactical battlefield weapon, with a special booster to extend the range.

Doctors cleared over death of patient

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

The three-week trial which has deeply embarrassed the French medical profession and left the public amazed at the goings-on in some hospitals has ended in Poitiers with the acquittal of all three doctors accused of being involved in the death of a patient on the operating table.

Cheers of the public, who had waited in the courtroom until nearly midnight on Thursday to hear the verdict, were punctuated by cries of dismay from the family of the woman who died, Nicole Berneron. After three years they are still none the wiser as to the cause of her death.

In October, 1984, Mme Berneron entered Poitiers teaching hospital for an operation to remove a benign cyst from below her ear. The



Dr Archambeau: Accused of being an accomplice.

operation was successfully carried out, but she never recovered consciousness and died despite attempts at resuscitation.

The anaesthetist in charge, Professor Pierre Meriel, then announced that Mme Berneron's death had been the result, not of negligence, but of deliberate sabotage aimed at ruining his career. Head of the anaesthetics department at Poitiers, he accused a specialist in his department, Dr Bakari Diallo, of deliberately swapping the oxygen and nitrous oxide tubes on the respirator the night before the operation. The professor himself said he had discovered the inverted tubes, in the presence of two witnesses he had asked to be there, three hours after the fatal operation.

a criminal act leading to a death. The case took one of the first twists for which it has become famous when further police inquiries led to Professor Meriel being charged with negligence and the two accused being released and allowed to continue to work as anaesthetists. The two continued their work during the two years it took to bring the case to court, despite remaining charged.

While the trial failed to produce one solid piece of evidence, either to support the professor's accusations or to establish how Mme Berneron died, it provided a horrifying insight into an incompetent medical world where doctors were more concerned with stabbing each other in the back than with their patients. Nobody refuted the fact that

Mme Berneron, who had not been examined by a qualified anaesthetist the night before, had been given a preliminary injection and then left on the operating table for an hour while the surgeon fumed and there was a general scramble to find an anaesthetist. Professor Meriel had summarily transferred Dr Diallo to another section the day before.

The anaesthetist who should have been on duty admitted in court that he deliberately stayed away, without advising the hospital, to protest against this transfer.

It was Professor Meriel who rushed in to be the anaesthetist, and witnesses described how he continued to answer phone calls during the operation, including at the crucial moment when the patient should have been waking up.

Timing is Cordovez hurdle

From Michael Hamlyn, Geneva

that there was a consensus that a broad-based government was necessary in Kabul for the Geneva accord to be effective.

"I have the feeling that the differences which remain concern the sequence, the timing, modalities and procedure, but they are not differences of fundamental substance."

In fact the Afghans, who announced on Thursday that they had made significant concessions on the timing and phasing of the proposed withdrawal of Russian troops, appear to have made a further unspoken concession.

Last week Mr Abdul Wakil, the Afghan Foreign Minister, firmly declared that "no subjects" would be discussed - indicating that the interim government would not be on the agenda. However, it is apparent that at least the

timing of the formation of a new government will be discussed next week.

Timing and procedures for the signing of the four instruments of the agreement will provide a particular headache for Señor Cordovez and his experts. For they have to ensure that all four of the instruments (on non-interference and non-intervention, on international guarantees, on the voluntary return of the refugees, and the fourth instrument to which a name has not yet been assigned) come into force together.

Señor Cordovez believes that another important obstacle to establishing a coalition government will be lifted soon, as the Mujahibin guerrilla exiles drop their refusal to talk to the present Afghan regime.

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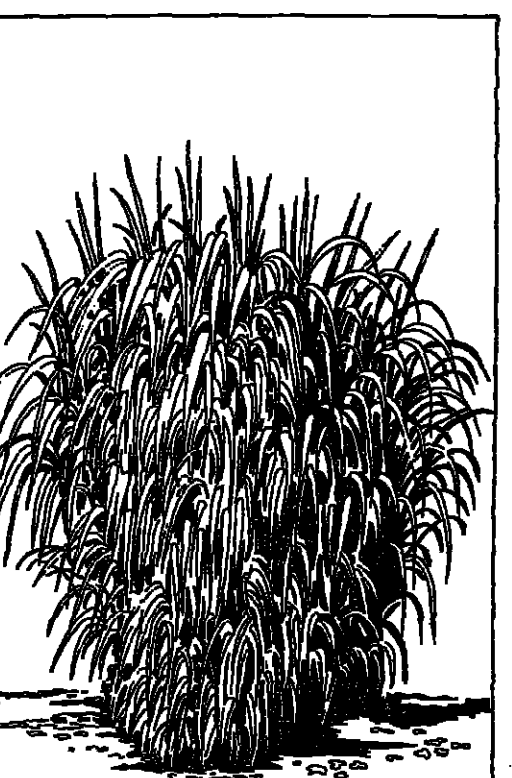
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Cash-crisis Vatican raids Peter's Pence to help pay its bills

From Roger Boyes, Rome

The Vatican, whose treasures include Michelangelo's Pieta and Raphael's frescoes, is going broke. Moreover, as revealed in detailed accounts published yesterday for the first time, it is having to plunder the annual charity contribution, known as Peter's Pence, to make up the shortfall — a case, perhaps, of robbing Peter to pay John Paul.

The cardinals' Economic and Finance Committee has been meeting this week to work out more reliable ways of funding the Holy See, without having to sell off its art treasures or dip further into Peter's Pence.

Under pressure from the United States and West German churches and the richest episcopates and the largest contributors to Peter's Pence — the Vatican has decided to be relatively frank about its financial affairs.

This form of spiritual glaucoma is supposed to reassure believers that the funds are not being mismanaged.

The figure for 1986, the latest available, shows a deficit of 77 billion lira (about \$39 million), with expenditure almost double its income. The main income is from investments and publications. But labour costs, administrative expenses, maintenance of buildings and the expanding services of Vatican radio have dented the budget.

Since the 1960s the Vatican has used Peter's Pence to keep up the cash flow, but in 1986 the Pope used up not only the full contribution for the year — \$32 million (£18 million) —

but also \$24.7 million (£13.9 million) from the reserves, nearly wiping them out. As the cardinals discussed the 1987 deficit — yet to be announced — it is already clear that there is not enough money in hand.

Peter's Pence was established in England in AD 787 and became an annual levy on

Papal revenues from Peter's Pence	
1983	\$17m
1984	\$18m
1985	\$27m
1986	\$30m
1987 (est)	\$37m

Catholic congregations throughout the world. The revenue is at the discretion of the Pope, who can choose whether to give it to charity or use it to run the Vatican.

The annual sum (see accompanying figures) fluctuates, but in general has been rising during the 10-year papacy of John Paul. However, there is a great deal of uncertainty about the income. The generosity of congregations can be affected by an economic depression or by a suspicion that Vatican funds are being misused. The scandal of the Vatican Bank — which is a quite separate operation from the Holy See budget — appears to have had an adverse effect on donations.

For 1987 — though overall Peter's Pence contributions are expected to top \$35 million (£19.7 million) for the first time — the weakness of the dollar has had a particularly damaging effect. About a third of Peter's Pence contributions come from the

United States in dollars, but the expenses of the Vatican are in Italian lire.

The current account, under consideration by the cardinals, shows that the Vatican's wealth is largely tied up. Its 18,000 works of art are regarded as not for sale, part of the Church's legacy to humanity. About half of the Vatican investments — estimated at between \$400 million and \$500 million (£225 million and £282 million) — are not yielding income. There are, for example, significant gold reserves. And the Vatican owns about 40 prime-site buildings in Rome and elsewhere in Italy with a book value of about \$100 million (£56.4 million), but these yield extremely low rents. Investment on the stock exchange has been extremely cautious by both the Holy See and — its fingers burnt by the collapse of the Banco Ambrosiano — the Vatican Bank. That has reduced the risk somewhat: the Vatican lost only about £1 million in the stock market crash of October last year.

The expenses, meanwhile, are ballooning.

The proposals discussed this week in the Vatican include the idea of renaming Peter's Pence — to make it seem less pious — the creation of a foundation by wealthy supporters and annual fund-raising campaigns. There are divisions in the 10-man economic committee, but all the cardinals agree that the Vatican must receive a regular fixed sum rather than rely on the haphazard contributions of believers.

Stewardess saved by clock



Mlle Hélène Guilloux, a trainee stewardess with the French domestic airline TAT (Transport Aérien Transrégional), explaining to reporters yesterday how a faulty alarm clock saved her life (Susan MacDonald writes from Paris). She overslept because the clock did not go off and missed the flight on which she was due. Soon afterwards the plane, flying from Nancy to Orly airport, Paris, crashed, killing all 19 passengers and three crew. Wreckage and clothing were scattered over a wide area of farmland, which had been covered with a thin layer of snow. Some debris was found hanging from high-tension cables the Folker Fairchild

227 struck as it came down. The passengers on the daily early-morning flight were apparently all French. Among them was a pregnant mother and her 16-month-old baby. The crew consisted of a pilot, co-pilot and stewardess, who was a last-minute replacement for Mlle Guilloux. The Transport Minister, M Jacques Doufflaque, who went to the scene of the crash, said there was nothing for the moment to suggest that the plane's wings had been icing up. He ordered two inquiries into the crash, the worst in France since 1981 when a Yugoslav airlines DC9 crashed in Corsica, killing 180 people.

Runcie insists on better deal for Aborigines

From Our Correspondent, Sydney

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, at the end of his visit to Australia, has said that the Church must shoulder much of the blame for the plight of the country's 400,000 Aborigines.

Dr Runcie — or the "Big Boss" as he has become known to the Aborigines — was speaking in Canberra after spending several days visiting Aboriginal communities in remote northern areas.

After seeing the effects of 200 years of European colonization, the Archbishop said: "The root cause of the Aboriginal people's plight is the deprivation of their traditional culture and values, and for that the Church must shoulder much of the blame."

"They must take the responsibility for some of the mistakes made whenever it was suggested you had to obliterate Aboriginal values to insert the Christian gospel."

He urged church leaders to play a more prominent role in bringing about a reconciliation between Aboriginal and white Australians. While not denying that many Aborigines were severely underprivileged, Dr Runcie said he was encouraged by the development of many communities, particularly those with active involvement in the Church.

The highlight of the visit by the "Big Boss" was his extended stay on the remote Groote Eylandt in the Gulf of Carpentaria. He was the guest of the Angurugu community where, on a warm evening, he chatted with the Aborigines at a barbecue.

"I wanted to stress that the Aborigines of the Church here

are just as much members of the Anglican Communion as the Archbishop of Canterbury," he explained.

His visit has once again cast an unwelcome spotlight on Australia's treatment of the indigenous people, who have declared 1988, the bicentennial of European settlement, "a year of mourning."

Dr Runcie said: "I am very conscious that for the Aborigines there is a very different apprehension of an event like the bicentenary. They also share something which is not unknown in other parts of the world in regard to how the original population perceived the colonial population. The Western ways bring help and better education, yet bring all sorts of values which are foreign to their way of life."

The main intention of his visit has been to investigate problems facing Aborigines, and he has asked Australians to seek justice for the victims of colonialism. "Colonialism, which has opened up all sorts of opportunities and achievements on the land, also exploited, if not dealt in a worse way with, the inhabitants who belong to the land."

"I am certain that one of the moral claims upon us is to seek justice in a situation where those who were displaced, who are part of the land, are not the most disadvantaged people in the society. There must be something wrong if that is the case."

Dr Runcie intends to put the plight of Australia's Aboriginal people high on the agenda at the Lambeth Conference this year.

Tamils die in clash with Indian troops

Colombo — Four guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were killed in Sri Lanka's Northern province and another was captured in a battle with Indian peacekeeping forces, officials said yesterday (Vijitha Yapa writes).

The incident, in which one soldier was wounded, took place at Urumpirai, eight miles from Jaffna.

Suspected Tiger guerrillas were also reported to have fled from an ambush by Sri Lankan troops as they tried to enter a village only a few miles from Morawewa, where 15 people were killed by the group this week in what was feared to be a fresh campaign against Sinhalese civilians.

China attacks hepatitis 'toll'

Peking (Reuters) — China attacked as exaggerated rumours reports that several million people had been infected by hepatitis A in Shanghai and that 30,000 victims had died. The official press said that only seven of an undisclosed number of cases were fatal.

Jail breaker

Nicosia (AFP) — Colonel Gaddafi freed 400 prisoners by ramming a bulldozer into the walls of a Tripoli jail to mark the anniversary of Libya's emergence as a socialist Arab republic in March, 1977.

Priest held

Rio de Janeiro (AP) — A radical Brazilian Catholic priest, Father Leonardo Boff, was detained for trying to prevent flood victims being removed from their shacks.

Envoy to Fiji

Suva (Reuters) — Australia named Mr Robert Cotton as its first ambassador to republican Fiji in a step to normalize ties with the South Pacific nation after the coup.

Artists freed

Berlin (Reuters) — Five artists, who were arrested after applying to leave East Germany, have been fined and released, friends in West Berlin said.

Battle brews over rush to Brazilian El Dorado

From Mac Margolis, Boa Vista, Brazil

Ask anyone but the postman here how to get to Araxu Filho Street and one is likely to draw a blank stare. For everyone in this sprawling regional capital on the Rio Branco knows it by a nobler nickname, "Gold Street".

The narrow, pitted stretch of asphalt just outside the city centre has in recent months turned into one of Boa Vista's most privileged addresses. It is home to most of the more than 30 gold buyers whose brisk trade in gold, precious stones, and foreign currency has helped turn this one-time lazy river port in the sparsely settled territory of Roraima into an Amazon boom town.

As many as 9,000 claim stakers, or *garimpeiros*, are working alluvial deposits in the jungle 150 miles west of here, producing up to 7,000oz a month. The gold find is already one of Brazil's largest and unprecedented, even for mineral-laden Roraima, whose largest symbol is a



with white civilization, face almost certain destruction.

"The Yanomami are being surrounded on all sides," said Father Carlo Zacchini, an Italian missionary who has worked 20 years among the Yanomami. "They run the risk of extinction. This is genocide."

The *garimpeiros* reject the dire predictions as alarmism and accuse the Catholic missionaries — particularly the foreigners — of meddling in local affairs and politicizing the Indians.

Although the nearest mission was more than 100 miles away, miners blamed the priests "for stirring the Yanomami into the bloody confrontation last August."

Another complicating factor is that the Yanomami reservation has been identified but never legally demarcated. In the past 10 years there have been five different proposals for a Yanomami reservation, each a different size.

The current version sets aside more than 23 million acres, an area the size of Portugal, for Brazil's approximately 9,000 Yanomami. Advocates say the Yanomami, a semi-nomadic people, traditionally traverse extensive areas to hunt and fish.

"I'm not in favor of prospecting in indigenous areas," said Senhor José Altino Machado, the powerful president of the union of *garimpeiro* syndicates and associations, with 600,000 members. "But a land the size of Portugal for a few thousand Indians is absurd."

However, indications are that the rush to this new El Dorado has spun out of control. A fight over the region reveals that the *garimpeiros*

coloured tarps and tents have moved deeper and deeper into Yanomami territory. Although there are but a few Indian villages close to the current gold sites, many observers predict that the *garimpeiros* will soon move farther west, to the Surucucá sierra, where dozens of Indian villages are concentrated in an area rich in both gold and tin.

Even those who favour limited entry of the miners fear the results of the march westwards. "If the *garimpeiros* establish a base to the west it will be the end of the Yanomami," said Senhor João Orestes Schneider, a geologist with a government exploration firm.

The issue is a delicate one for Roraima officials who are gearing up for a mayoral election in a territory where *garimpeiros* form a powerful voting bloc. At the same time liberal politicians in Brasília and the local church are pressuring for total removal of

I've never heard of anyone closing down a gold mine

the miners. What is more, the Brazilian Army, under its so-called northern headquarters programme, is busy laying groundwork for military bases and settler colonies.

In a decision that seems designed to appease everyone, but will probably completely satisfy no one, the military earlier this month banned flights by the more than 100 private aircraft now servicing Boa Vista airport.

The Government move appears calculated to flush out the *garimpeiros* whose only line of supply is by air, while avoiding a public commitment to close down the mine. "It's 20 days' walk back to civilization. Miners are going to starve to death," predicted the *garimpeiro* spokesman, Senhor Altino Machado.

With the advent of the Amazon wet season next month, torrential rains may finish off what the Government timidly has begun. But the intrepid *garimpeiros* are betting that the rains will only temporarily dampen Boa Vista's gold fever.

"I've heard of gold making governments and toppling them, installing tyrants and removing them," said Senhor Altino Machado. "But I've never heard of anyone closing down a gold mine."



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Rights test on Canadian aid

From John Best, Ottawa

The Canadian Government has introduced a new "flexible" strategy on foreign aid which subjects it to the test of a developing country's record on human rights.

Under the strategy, presented to the Commons by Mrs Monique Landry, Minister for International Relations and Development, the Conservative Cabinet will conduct an annual review of human rights in potential

recipient countries. Bilateral aid will be reduced or denied to governments where violations of basic rights are "systematic, gross and continuous", and where delivery of the aid to those in need cannot be guaranteed. However, aid to these countries could still be channelled through non-governmental organizations.

Mrs Landry was vague on the kind of criteria that would

be used in judging a country's performance, saying that the system will be "flexible".

Opposition spokesmen were scornful of the plan to involve Cabinet ministers in the aid scheme. "Will it really be the Government or will it be some faceless bureaucracy?" asked Mr Roland de Corneille, of the Liberals.

Canada's foreign aid budget this year is about \$Can 2.7 billion (£1.2 billion).

TIMES DIARY SIMON BARNES

Men generally outstrip women in sporting achievement not because the events are too tough but because they are not tough enough. So Craig Brown of Birmingham University tells me, and the *Iditarod* — the sled dog race across Alaska — proves his point to perfection. The race starts today, and Susan Butcher is the unbeatable short-priced favourite. She won the race the last two years, and would have become the first woman to win in 1985. But she had a moose problem: her sled was charged by a moose when she was leading, and the furious animal spent 20 minutes tearing into the team, killing two dogs, injuring several more, and damaging Butcher as well. The next contestant shot the moose. Butcher loaded the casualties on to her sled, set off again and still won the stage. She then withdrew and Libby Riddles won. But the following year, Butcher won in a new record of 11 days 15 hours. The next year, despite a broken sled runner, she lowered her record by a further 13 hours. When it comes to real endurance, it seems that men are non-starters.

I seem to remember promising an end to Eddie Edwards stories. But this is not a promise any journalist is likely to keep. So let me present the search for the football team that best encapsulates the Eddie Edwards spirit. Let's hear it for Westfield, of the Danair Combined Counties League, unquestionably the team with the worst record in senior football this season: played 21, lost 21, goals for 7, against 110. It's a sad comedown from last season when they were only second to bottom of their league and had three wins. Their problem is that they are a genuine amateur team in a semi-professional league: all the best players leave to get paid elsewhere. The club secretary, Dick Hill, said: "... all the local youngsters think we must be so bad that anyone can play. They see it as a good chance to play senior football. But there is no question of our throwing in the towel. The spirit in the club is excellent. I was ready to pull us out of the league because we had lost nearly all our best players, but nobody else would have it." Today Westfield — it's near Woking, in Surrey — play *Fair Rovers* away. They are not over-optimistic.

● Quote of the week from *Wm O'Reilly*: Britain's double gold medal winner in the demonstration sport of short-track speed skating at the Winter Olympics: "Eddie the Eagle may be bold, but *Will the Whizz* brought home the gold".

And now for something completely different: another Eddie Edwards story. Matti Nykanen, the greatest ski-jumper in history, and very nearly the most famous, is to be commemorated on a special Finnish stamp. Under normal circumstances you have to be royal or dead to make it on a stamp, so this is a very real measure of Nykanen's stature. Roll on the Eddie stamp, say I: a series depicting Great British Gallant Failures would celebrate the national culture in a quite splendid way. Any suggestions?

BARRY FANTONI



"Neville's wondering if it will produce any great war poets"

Here is some stunning news about football: yes, there are some nice things in the game. The players of Palermo football club have recorded an anti-Mafia song. It is called "Every one of us sings together", and is all about love, peace, flowers and putting an end to fear. The astounding Brazilian footballer and curfew-breaker, Renato, has come up with a notion to help the Brazilian flood victims: freezing all the players' bonuses and passing the money on to the stricken people. And back home, I hear nice things about Tony Cotton, the Watford goalie with a reputation for aggressive and unruly behaviour. A 15-year-old keeper wrote to him to ask for advice on saving penalties. Cotton sent a detailed, handwritten, four-page reply. And talking of footballing saints, I have a wodge of correspondence concerning the Soccer Saints XI, all pointing out the same spectacular omission: where was Sir Stanley Matthews?

Since there are few things I love more than rain forests, and few things I enjoy more than the usual pleasure of learning about a tournament arranged by the Rainforest Cricket Club which aims to raise £160,000 for the Korup National Park and an education programme in Cameroon. It involves 64 teams from media, marketing and entertainment. The final date for entries is March 31, and the organizers can be reached on 01-436 7344.

Yes, there were men of the cloth who played first-class soccer. The best, I think, was the Rev Kenneth Reginald Gurney Hunt, a right half who played 50 league games for Wolves between 1906 and 1920. The son of a local vicar, he commuted to the ground as an undergraduate from Oxford, where he got his blue. He played for Great Britain in the 1908 Olympics and scored the first goal in the 1908 Cup Final, when Wolves beat Newcastle 3-1. In the 1911-12 season, Wolves signed a second cleric, the Rev W.C. Jordan, from Everton, but he never played alongside Hunt in his first team. Wolves also had a Bishop — but that was his name, not his vocation. Thanks to V.E. Cox, Dr Charlie Bamforth and Trevor Lyons for all this.

Argentina simply does not believe Whitehall's statements that it will not discuss sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. As one Argentine official told me this week: "Now that we have seen the concessions you have made in Gibraltar and Hong Kong, we reckon it's only a matter of time in the Malvinas". President Alfonsín thinks that "no" means "not yet". If words have failed to convey Britain's resolve, perhaps the point will be made more effectively by Operation Fire Focus, the £3 million British military exercise beginning on Monday.

Though not its stated purpose, the exercise is, or should be, the most convincing demonstration since 1982 that the Falklands will remain British, until the Falklanders decide otherwise. If the British government wants to be taken seriously in Buenos Aires, it is vital that it should not be put off by the extraordinary effort Latin America is making to get it cancelled, postponed or scaled down.

Nearly every country in the American hemisphere has made diplomatic representations in some form. The Organization of American States passed a resolution

Andrew McEwen on the thinking behind Operation Fire Focus

Force signal to Argentina

tion in Washington urging Britain to reconsider and open talks with Buenos Aires instead. Argentina's armed forces have been placed on "defensive alert" and the Peronist opposition has been pressing for simultaneous Argentine exercises. There has also been some opposition in Britain from those who think it is ill-timed, insensitive, potentially harmful to Argentina's fledgling democracy, and incitement to extreme elements in the military.

Given the scale of the fuss, one might think that it would do little harm, and earn much goodwill, to defuse the row by at least inviting Buenos Aires to send observers. But the history of Anglo-Argentine relations suggests that this would be seen as a sign of weakness. One might think that the 1982 war would have taught Buenos Aires not to underestimate Britain's resolve.

Not so: it has consistently misinterpreted British policy for the last few years.

The Foreign Office tried to rebuild a working relationship, beginning with joint management of South Atlantic fishing stocks. Over the last 14 months it has had a series of indirect contacts with Argentina via the US State Department. But this approach seems to be making little headway, and the signs are that Argentina will not settle for a limited relationship. Nor will it declare an end to hostilities unless Britain agrees to discussions on an open agenda, which would implicitly reopen the sovereignty question.

It appears to want an arrangement similar to the 1984 Bras agreement under which British and Spanish ministers meet regularly. Any subject can be discussed, but Madrid and

London reserve their respective positions on the sovereignty of Gibraltar. In practice the talks have provided the Spanish press with a regular opportunity to raise expectations.

To the Argentine mind, Britain began to yield sovereignty of Gibraltar last year when it agreed to joint use of the airport. Buenos Aires also sees a connection with the 1982 agreement under which Britain agreed to hand back Hong Kong to China in 1997. But no one with a detailed knowledge of the issues could regard these as precedents. The Gibraltar deal was subject to the approval of the Gibraltarians. Hong Kong's New Territories were always due to return to China under the terms of a 99-year lease, and the part of the colony over which Britain had sovereignty would not have been viable without them.

But such objections cut no ice in Buenos Aires. "You'd never get the average person to accept any of that", said the official.

Whether intended as such or not, Operation Fire Focus should convince the Argentines of Britain's continuing determination. In military terms it is a sideshow, especially if compared with routine Nato exercises involving tens of thousands of troops. The highly emotional public response in Argentina bears no relation to the facts. A little over 600 men are to be flown in RAF Tristar to Mount Pleasant, the £400 million airport Britain built after the 1982 war. At least one is likely to make the 8,000-mile journey non-stop, to prove mid-air refuelling capability.

The Government, perhaps disingenuously, has based its public justification of Fire Focus

on military cost-effectiveness with the aim of reducing the size and cost of the garrison as the perceived Argentine threat declines. That goal depends on ensuring that Argentina knows that Britain can reinforce the garrison rapidly in response to heightened tension.

The economic argument is compelling. Britain is spending £257 million a year on Falklands defence, equivalent to £130,000 a year for every islander. This could be reduced by cutting the size of the garrison, which is thought to number between 1,200 and 1,800 men. (The exact figure is classified).

The desire to demonstrate the rapid-reinforcement capability is no bizarre military fetish, as some have suggested. Those who accept it include the Opposition's spokesman on the Falklands, George Foulkes.

But the Labour Party believes Britain should be seeking a long-term solution in the Falklands. Laudable though that aim may be, no one has yet found a way of achieving it while also respecting the islanders' wishes. It was precisely that dilemma which precipitated the 1982 war, and nothing has changed.

Frank Johnson

When South meets North

Charleston, South Carolina

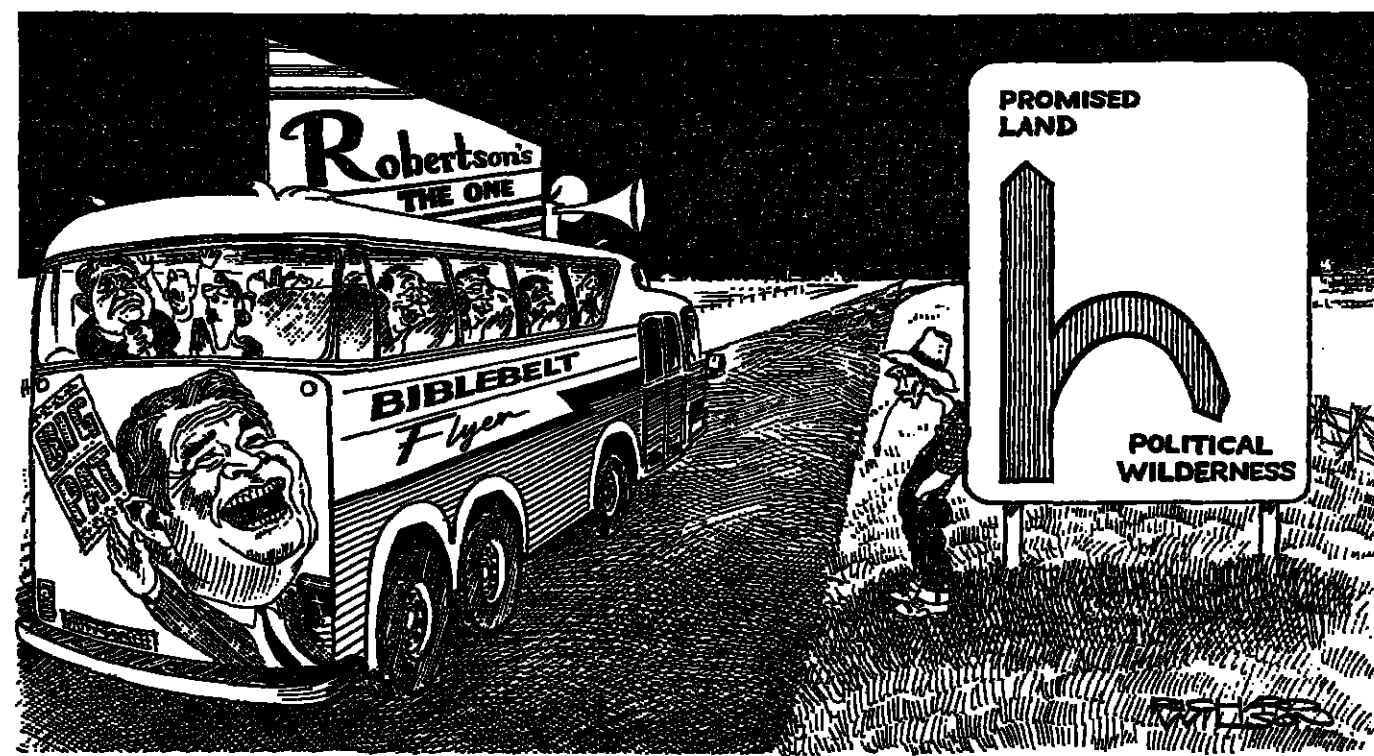
Super Tuesday, the big primary election which will take place in four days time in 20 mainly Southern states, was invented after 1984 by the Democratic party's Southern elders.

Their intention was that the South would have more of a say in nominating the party's presidential candidate. What seems to be happening is that the North is having more of a say in the choice of the South.

According to the opinion polls, the same candidates who did well in snowy New Hampshire are doing well down here. This is something which does not surprise many of us occasional visitors to the United States. We have always had faith in the strength of the union. Tocqueville noted the similarities between an American citizen in one part of the country and an American citizen in another. Others of us have noted the similarities between, say, the American breakfast, a nation which, in whatever region, serves strawberries or oranges with your eggs and bacon has achieved, however disgusting the culinary principles involved, an enviable degree of social cohesion.

The Southern Republicans, anxious that their party should enjoy a share of the publicity entailed, have joined in Super Tuesday. But the event was born out of the Democratic party's troubles in the 1980s. No more Mondales, was the reasoning which originally lay behind the event. Mr Mondale, the hugely defeated 1984 Democratic candidate, was of Norwegian ancestry and was born in the far North. Not quite as far North as Norway, perhaps, but Minnesota, which — to a Southern Democratic politician — apparently amounted to the same thing. Southern folks don't hold with them Norwegians, seemed to be the complaint of these sages. In fact, according to such wisdom, Southern folks hold with hardly anyone except one of themselves.

After the victory of Governor Dukakis, of Massachusetts, in the New Hampshire primary, it was widely held that the South



would not hold with someone such as Mr Dukakis who was very short, very dark and whose surname was very Greek. It was also said that the Republican contender, the Reverend Pat Robertson, who had not done well in New Hampshire, where there are few Christian fundamentalists, would do much better in the South where — to hear the experts tell it — even agnostics sometimes speak in tongues.

Super Tuesday was also founded on the notion that, by the time it came round, a relatively conservative Southerner would have emerged as a strong candidate for the Democratic nomination. Had the Southern primaries been spread out over many weeks and interspersed with those in other parts of the country, such a candidate could more easily be overwhelmed by various Northern liberals. But Super Tuesday would establish the Southern Democratic hope as unbeatable for the nomination.

Such a candidate, however, has not emerged. Or rather, he has only emerged in the form of

tail, young Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee. He does indeed look like one of those officers in *Gone With the Wind* who have to rush off from the ball on hearing that the Southland must yield up her sons. But, according to the opinion polls, Mr Gore is running well behind the very short Greek from Massachusetts. And, there being only one black candidate, as opposed to several white ones, the Democrat who looks like getting the most solid support on Tuesday is the Reverend Jesse Jackson — the least conservative and the most nationally unelectable.

Super Tuesday, then, is a victim of the Law of Unintended Consequences. People just do not always do what their betters try to get them to do. The point of view of the Democratic Southern oligarchy, the whole thing is going terribly wrong. Or, from the standpoint of those of us who welcome all forms of unpredictability in electoral politics, it is going gloriously right. That is, it is very difficult to say what is going to

happen. This difficulty, however, would be the same if the event were taking place across the North instead of across the South.

How to account for this? Partly, by reference to the above-mentioned "strawberries and the eggs and bacon" theory of American civilization. Put another way, the civil war has ended with the South embracing the cultural values of the North, unless American breakfast traditions derive from the South, in which case there seems to have been much give and take on both sides. Does this mean that the sameness of the United States — the much derided "conformity" — has spread to the South? More likely, it just means that the South does not take to professional Southernness any more than Londoners take to professional cockneyness. Just as real East Enders tend not to relish *EastEnders*, American Southerners no longer want to play the folksy role allotted them by bigoted liberals.

From the window of the press bus following the Reverend Pat Robertson through the South

Carolina lowlands, a vista was presented of wooden houses with porches, tobacco plantations, and single railway tracks wandering through spooky woods to a distant horizon. Possibly, amid this mysterious landscape, Southern whites were still doing the sort of things they get up to in Faulkner and Tennessee Williams — incest, getting drunk, finding out that various characters are not their fathers' sons. It would be sad if all the Southern traditions have completely died. But the messages coming out to the candidates from this haunting countryside are not much different from those which would come out of Manhattan.

Mr Robertson has slipped badly in the polls and now admits that even on this, his ancestral turf, he has a tremendous fight on his hands even to run Vice-President Bush a close second. He stopped in small towns, and at crossroads by Confederate war memorials. But his crowds were small. He is said to have been damaged by his claims about there being Soviet missiles in Cuba, and by his

suggestion that the ruin of Mr Jimmy Swaggart — the preacher caught with a prostitute — was engineered by the Bush campaign to discredit the Robertson candidacy. Time was running out for Mr Robertson, and his passion — as he promised to rebuild America with moral strength — had a touch of desperation about it.

The South Carolina Republican primary is today. Mr Robertson had hoped that a win here, or a good showing, would enable him to sweep the rest of the South on Tuesday. But it is all much more difficult than he expected. In his crowds, there are no yuppies, and according to the income statistics, and so on, the yuppies are becoming important in the South just as they are in the entire world. Thank God Faulkner and Tennessee Williams did not live to see it.

Occasionally, in a Robertson crowd, one talks to someone who says the sort of things which yuppies are supposed to say. One woman, for example, told me that, though she was going to vote for Robertson, she would vote for President Carter if he were standing again because of his bringing of Sadat and Begin together. An impeccably liberal, secular sentiment, on the face of it. But she added that the Camp David accord had been "the fulfilment of biblical prophecy". And somehow one knew one was not among the yuppies of Manhattan or Islington.

The final polls yesterday showed a commanding lead in South Carolina for Vice-President Bush, as they did elsewhere. Mr Bush was born in New England, worked in Texas, claims links with most regions, and comes from nowhere in particular. Apart from Senator Dole's Midwestern heartland, Mr Bush is doing well everywhere. Since the polls hugely underestimated his support in New Hampshire, we should distrust them now. But a candidate so regionally adaptable is going to be difficult to beat. Mr Bush is to American politics what strawberries are to American breakfasts.

Commentary . PETER BRIMELOW

Limey longing

New York I spent last Saturday lying in a darkened Mexican hotel room, wondering feebly how continued explosive egestion was medically possible after fifty hours of no ingestion at all. Was it bone marrow? Brain?

Outside, her Florence Nightingale lamp temporarily laid aside, my incredibly healthy wife was snorkelling through turquoise seas, over coral reefs first made famous by Jacques Cousteau, interrogating brilliantly coloured tropical fish in her forthright way.

We were part of a grand and very well-established pattern. North American winters can be harsh. At this time of year, the natives' urge to see the sun becomes irresistible, and great lemming-like movements of population take place. For example, one in every twenty Canadians, over a million of them, are estimated to be in Florida at the peak of the season in January and February.

As always with human societies, these movements show unexpected but distinct patterns. People from different regions like quite different resorts. We were staying on the island of Cozumel, off the Yucatan peninsula in the south-east of Mexico. We found few of our fellow New Yorkers, but a surprising number of visitors from the Rocky Mountain states of the American West, much further away. It turns out that there is a hidden continuum between the skiing and the scuba-diving subcultures.

Mexico entertains enormous numbers of Americans every year. But, unlike the Forty-Ninth Parallel dividing the US from

Canada, the Rio Grande is a real frontier. Mexico is emphatically part of the Third World. The high standards of hygiene that can be taken for granted even in remote corners of the United States do not apply.

President Jimmy Carter once caused much diplomatic harping by joking, with tell-tale feebleness, in a speech at a state banquet in Mexico City about "Montezuma's Revenge" — the characteristic stomach disorder that afflicts travellers in the country. Fellow sufferers understand only too well how he came to be obsessed with it.

Which brings me to the point of this article: an encomium to Rose's Lime Juice.

Stomachs are intensely conservative. Changing cuisines is among the most intense, and longest lasting, pains of exile. Last Saturday it was this new member of taste from my childhood in England that most poignantly symbolized the advantages of being back in New York — or, for that matter, anywhere out of Mexico. Its pure tartness seemed redolent of an ethereal freshness that life once possessed. And I knew there was a bottle, with its green cap, quaint engraved label and old-fashioned patterned glass, right there in the fridge back home.

Americans for some reason do not drink the cordials that you dilute with water. Instead, they favour unconcentrated fruit juices that come ready to drink in half-gallon cartons. But you can get Rose's Lime Juice, which I gather is manufactured under licence from the parent company in Britain (now part of the Cadbury-Schweppes group), at gourmet shops in Manhattan,

although it is startlingly expensive.

As I'm not a particular fan of American beer, I have been single-handedly campaigning for years to convert bars here to offering it with a slug of Rose's Lime Juice. I think it improves the taste. Waiters need a lot of persuading. Quite often the beer arrives with a chunk of a real lime floating in it, and occasionally even a lemon.

While these negotiations are proceeding, I always expect my companions to joke about "Limeys" — still a common American term for the English, although dating back to the beginning of the 19th century and the Royal Navy's policy of issuing a lime juice ration to prevent scurvy. They never do, possibly because of the American paranoia about any references to race or ethnicity, even foreigners'. But they look uneasy.

This was before I appreciated the therapeutic, even metaphysical, attributes of Rose's Lime Juice. Back in New York, still queasy, I opened the refrigerator in my accountant's office and found the familiar green-capped bottle. Although a New Yorker, he turned out to be an addict and, mixing it with vodka or gin to make Gimlet cocktails. His response to its relative unavailability is very American: he simply buys every bottle he sees.

After a brief celebration, we went back to figuring out my income tax — an unusually hideous task now because of successive waves of reforming legislation.

Against this ailment, not even Rose's Lime Juice is a cure. The author is a senior editor of *Forbes Magazine*.

SCIENCE REPORT

Spinal chords

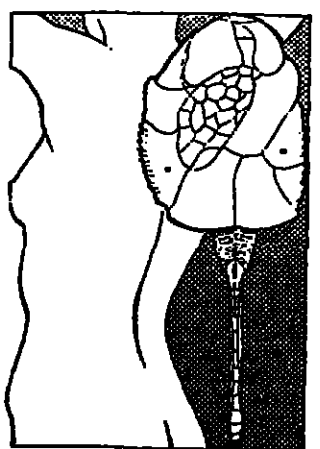
An attaché case full of fossils may hold the secret of vertebrate ancestry, according to Dr Richard Jefferies of the Natural History Museum.

Jefferies collected the fossils last month during a journey along Moroccan dirt tracks in a Renault 4. They are the remains of animals called calcichordates that lived on the sea floor 460 million years ago.

Calcichordates are related to the echinoderms, a group of non-vertebrate animals including starfish, sea urchins and other marine organisms. Many different kinds of echinoderms have evolved and become extinct. Most zoologists dismiss the calcichordates as a bizarre echinoderm offshoot, but at a meeting in Cambridge last week Jefferies presented evidence linking them with the first backboneed animals.

Like many echinoderms still extant, the shrimp-sized animals were armoured with spines and plates made of calcite, a form of calcium carbonate. This material fossilizes well, enabling detailed study of the external features of the creatures. After 25 years' work, Jefferies believes he has also been able to reconstruct the internal anatomy of the calcichordates, and that his reconstructions show all the hallmarks of primitive backboneed animals.

Calcichordates were filter-feeders, sieving particles of organic matter from ingested mud and detritus. They thus resemble a small group of



Paul Bryant

modern sea creatures called tunicates, filter-feeding cousins of the vertebrates.

By reconstructing a succession of calcichordate species, Jefferies claims to have traced a line of descent from primitive echinoderms all the way to calcichordates which, in all respects apart from their calcite skeletons, could easily be the ancestors of vertebrates and also of related groups, including tunicates. He hopes that further work on even more primitive calcichordates will soon show what the common ancestor of both vertebrates and echinoderms looked like.

These views represent a radical departure from the theories of vertebrate origins held by nearly all zoologists. According to the late Walter Garstang, the energetic marine biologist who was the first Professor of Zoology at the

University of Leeds, echinoderms and vertebrates are indeed related, but the similarities between them should be apparent only at the embryonic stages.

One problem with the Jefferies view is the external skeleton. Some time during evolution, the vertebrate ancestors must have shed their calcite skeletons, acquiring skeletons of bone. There is no sign of bone in calcichordates, but the Moroccan fossils show distinct signs of resorption of their calcite skeletons.

At the time of deposition, Morocco was somewhere near the South Pole and calcite resorption is a characteristic feature of modern cold-water animals. Jefferies believes that the polar seas would have favoured the eventual disappearance of external calcite, and the evolution of the first vertebrates.

Timing is another problem. All known calcichordates come from rocks also containing fossils of fully developed early vertebrates: primitive armoured fish-like animals related to modern lampreys. So the true ancestors of vertebrates must be sought in more ancient rocks. None has been found so far, but the unusual abundance of calcichordates in the Moroccan collections, and the fact that a unrecognized species of calcichordates is still being discovered in Britain, sustains Jefferies in his search.

HENRY GEE

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TAXING

All sorts of statutory powers of taxation are being exercised by the Government. The Office of Tax Simplification is due to publish its first report. The income tax system is being re-examined. The new tax system is being introduced. The new tax system is being introduced.

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1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

TAXING THE INSPECTORS

All servants of the State entrusted with statutory powers which impinge on the daily lives of citizens, merit constant and vigilant monitoring — especially those who make judgements about our income and livelihood. The officer who, at one end of the spectrum, dispenses or withholds social security benefits due to a family in need, deserves special attention. So does the tax inspector, assessing the income of a trading company or high earner — according to a set of rules which are augmented and sometimes replaced at his own discretion.

The series of articles offered in *The Times* this week on the Inland Revenue, should at the very least put officials on their mettle by posing them questions about the exercising of their powers. But for every citizen worried about the complexity of tax assessments or inspectors' powers, the sovereign remedy remains.

This is, and always has been, to simplify the tax code, to reduce the range of tax rates levied and to cut and slash in the thicker of tax reliefs. The taxman (and the professional accountant advising the taxpayer) are given employment by complex tax arrangements. Smooth and straighten them, and a ripe field for contention vanishes. The inspector of taxes should never be blamed for the sins of a Chancellor of the Exchequer who exults in the lush undergrowth of complicated tax rules. Mr Lawson, the man ultimately responsible for the way the taxman behaves, has his chance to wield the machete on Budget Day.

Just after Mrs Thatcher took office in 1979 there occurred an episode that seemed to some observers a symbol of the growth in state intervention in economic life during that decade. Inspectors using powers given them by the 1976 Finance Act, conducted an early morning raid on private homes in order to gather evidence about tax avoidance schemes which (the Revenue suspected) had slid into tax evasion.

The then Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Howe, established a review of the powers of the Inland Revenue (and Customs and Excise) which in its scope, duration and elegance of prose was effectively a Royal Commission in miniature. Lord Keith of Kinkaid duly reported, in 1983, with an eye on the use by the Revenue of their search and entry powers, and also — a subject that has since gone out of fashion — on the scale of the black economy and the need to check the growth in tax evasion.

Lord Keith did more than give the Revenue a clean bill of health. He proposed a rationalization of the Revenue's powers. Gradually, since his report, the Government

has inserted into Finance Acts several of his recommendations. The reaction to Lord Keith was that he succeeded in articulating a fair consensus both on the powers that the Inland Revenue should have and the way in which inspectors should use them. *The Times* articles suggest that it is time now to take stock.

If the Revenue, thanks to Lord Keith, is now capable of tracking down the obvious tax fraudster, then that must be welcome to both taxpayers and their professional advisers. It makes the system more transparent and restricts the scope for discretionary judgement by officials.

But if, post-Keith, the Revenue has taken on a new assertiveness (which might have sometimes looked like bullying) then there is cause for concern. And this is not just worry about the abuse of state power. Lord Keith, in several places, reiterated a cardinal principle of tax gathering in modern society: the regime must never be so onerous that taxpayers are given an incentive to avoid or evade obligations. Too rigid or too forceful an application of the tax laws, could, in other words, result in diminished revenue.

Our series concluded with the opinion of a specialist accountant — that relations with the Inland Revenue were now "combative". If that means that professionals engage in a battle of wits in which advisers and inspectors are pitting their intellects against each other, then it is no bad thing — provided always that the tax appeals mechanism is working well (and the evidence there is good).

If, however, it means that companies and individual taxpayers are being forced into bigger outlays on advice in order to protect themselves from some new assault by inquisitive taxmen, then that needs better explanation than it has had so far from Somerset House or the Treasury.

And yet grounds for anxiety about the Revenue's powers are shifting. There has recently been a haemorrhage of talent from the Inland Revenue to private accounting firms. If such movements are reducing the efficacy of the Inland Revenue it is cause for worry — unless the movement of staff should be seen as a restoration of balance, an evening up of sides in a perennial battle between taxman and taxpayer. The danger would be if the ranks of the Revenue's best officials were replenished by officials of lower calibre — who were tempted to extort by bureaucratic bullying, what their predecessors were able (in, for example, the Lester Pigott case) to do by painstaking detective work and responsible use of their powers.

CLASSROOM IMAGES

The National Union of Teachers' decision to adopt a new corporate image, exchanging the clenched fist of militant trade unionism for the helping hand of a professional association, is an encouraging development — even if it is not particularly convincing. The reservation is not meant to be churlish, but merely recognizes that at the same time as the union's old-style leaders unveiled their new-style logo, they went out of their way to rattle their ageing sabres.

The words they chose to define how the NUT is changing, are worth pondering: "National action on the scale of recent campaigns is now less relevant than strength of delivery in local negotiations." The implication that the union sees the future in terms of local strikes and disruption was immediately confirmed by Mr Ian Morgan, the president, who pointed out that the NUT was taking precisely such action 70 years ago when teachers' pay was locally negotiated — as it might well be again.

So it takes more than a logo, or even a "modern visual identity", to change a union's spots. A few outbreaks of local action will be quite enough to persuade parents and the general public that the new image is just as strident, aggressive and uncaring as the NUT says its old one had become.

What is encouraging is the NUT's realization that projecting a professional image is the only way to stop its members from draining away. More than 30,000 have departed in the past five years of "industrial action." The main beneficiaries have been the two associations that put the greatest emphasis

on teaching as a profession — the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, whose members have rarely disrupted their pupils' education, and the Professional Association of Teachers, whose members are pledged never to do so. Together, their membership has increased by about 40,000 in the past five years.

It is no coincidence that a new attempt is to be made later this month to launch a General Teaching Council. The ambition is that it should set and monitor standards for teachers in the same way as similar professional bodies do for lawyers and doctors. The climate has never been more favourable. Nothing would do more to transform teachers' standing in the public's eyes.

Teachers, however, are not alone in recognizing how the working environment has changed. Even a giant industrial union like the GMB has quietly replaced its "Strength Through Unity" slogan with a logo of a smiling face.

The question is whether the nurses are listening. Members of the Royal College of Nursing are currently balloting on whether to retain their traditional no-strike stand. The indications are that they may be evenly poised between the televised attractions of brazier and picket line and their professional image of caring angels. They would do well to consider the teachers' experience. Years of disruption have brought them widespread condemnation, the possibly permanent suspension of their negotiating rights and small material reward. Recovering the respect due to them will take many years, with or without a new logo.

TRAVELLING HOPEFULLY

The magazine *Holiday Which?* has published a down-to-earth analysis of numerous holiday brochures — comparing their claims with reality and listing the discrepancies between them. One hotel described as being "virtually on an excellent sandy beach" was discovered by the magazine to be hidden from the sea by a large and ugly building. "Stunning apartments to the highest modern standard" were in fact equipped with cheap wooden furniture with peeling kitchen work surfaces. "Modern" does not necessarily mean that the plumbing works, and "a few minutes from the sea" can be a gruelling trek over stony ground, to an uninviting backwater full of weed and rocks.

Some of the errors are clearly worse than others. A company whose brochure reproduces the wrong picture of a hotel or makes some blatant mis-statements of fact, is guilty of obtaining money under false pretences. But there are many finer distinctions to be made. A brochure picture which has been taken from the only possible flattering angle in town is perhaps fair enough. Altering the picture itself to mask the gasworks is clearly not so — even if the effect is virtually the same. But if it is essentially an illusion which is being sold, who is to say that some illusions are more truthful than others?

What *Holiday Which?* would clearly have us do is to read such brochures with a cynical eye. For this some rules of thumb are obviously needed. If a particular hotel or villa is advertised as "overlooking the beach" that

could mean overlooking all the surrounding countryside as well — from 500 feet up a steep hillside. So "views" need treating sceptically.

Adjectives of a sweeping general character need even larger pinches of salt. "Stunning" could mean everything, and has the obvious advantage to a holiday company that a court of law would hardly be likely to adjudicate against it.

The travel industry now takes customer complaints more or less in its stride. It has even become sophisticated enough to detect a whole class of professional complainer for whom the chance of extracting a rebate afterwards is part of the fun of the holiday itself. The better companies, conscious of the value of their reputation and good will, do readily make cash rebates when they are satisfied that the complaint is in good faith.

The best of them have also begun to authorize their local representatives to make such rebates as soon as possible, during the holiday itself. Brochures will always contain mistakes, and *Holiday Which?* is a little harsh to insist on nothing less than total accuracy. The fairest way of dealing with them is for the company representative on the spot to estimate to what extent they have caused genuine disappointment, and to pay appropriate compensation there and then. It is a fact of human nature that such grievances at the outset can overshadow the rest of the vacation unless corrected immediately. A holiday brochure is a shop-window of dreams — and broken dreams on holiday need prompt repair.

Soviet view on Afghan talks

From the Ambassador of the USSR

Sir, In connection with recent articles in your newspaper on the Afghan-Pakistani talks I would like to clarify certain points of the Soviet position on this matter.

We believe that the current round of talks in Geneva could and should be the final one.

Documents covering all aspects of a settlement are on the table. They include agreements between Afghanistan and Pakistan on non-interference and on the return of Afghan refugees, international guarantees of non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan; a document on the inter-relationship of all elements of political settlement and an agreement on a verification mechanism.

Furthermore, there is a firm political decision by the Soviet and Afghan Governments to start withdrawing the Soviet troops on May 15, 1988, and even earlier

provided the Geneva accords are signed before March 15.

Thus all the ingredients for a political settlement of the Afghan problem are there. However attempts are being made to turn the signing of the agreements into a hostage of such a purely internal Afghan matter as that of establishing a coalition Government in Afghanistan. That question can and should be resolved by the Afghans themselves. It must not be used as a pretext for delaying the conclusion of the negotiations.

The success of the Geneva process will constitute a historic breakthrough in the chain of regional conflicts. It would be a tangible contribution to strengthening world peace and security.

Yours faithfully,
L. ZAMYATIN,
Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,
13 Kensington Palace Gardens, W8, March 3.

Tax returns

From Miss M. W. Kendall

Sir, I, too, had a brush with the Inland Revenue about three years ago. The Inspector of Taxes said he had reason to believe that my tax return was incomplete. I could find no discrepancies.

I rang up the tax inspector to ask for guidance. He replied that he was not authorised to give guidance. I replied that unless he could do so there was nothing I could add, whereupon he said: "I have evidence to the contrary".

The exchange went on in this vein for some time. Eventually, he said: "Think of bank deposit accounts". I told him that there was only one account, which had remained with the same bank for more than 40 years, and eventually it was agreed that I could send him a signed statement to this effect.

It then occurred to me that the inspector must have been investigating the account of my mother in another bank in the same town. Her address had been

the same as mine for a time, although her file was still in another district.

I wrote explaining this. The matter was not pursued; neither was there any acknowledgement of my letter or apology for the mistake.

Yours faithfully,
M. W. KENDALL,
11 Maltravers Drive,
Littlehampton, West Sussex.

From Sir Gilbert Longden

Sir, Your Spectrum contributors, Mr Greaves and Mr Goldsmith seem to find something amiss in the Inland Revenue's recent success in gathering taxes which are lawfully due. They do not suggest that any taxpayer is being duped or bullied into paying tax which is not due; and they concede that, each year, several hundred million pounds more is now being recovered from tax avoiders and tax evaders. But that is surely what they're there for?

Yours sincerely,
GILBERT LONGDEN,
89 Cornwall Gardens, SW7.

NHS management

From Dr Barrie S. Smith

Sir, It is sad that Professor Ian McCall's splendid article on management problems in the health service is treated with such scant regard by Dr Maureen Dixon and Mr Hunt (February 23). It is simply not true that management costs in the NHS are less than 4.5 per cent of the total budget. Of course, it does "all depend what you mean by management costs". Unfortunately the definitions used in the NHS can lead to highly misleading estimates.

In my authority (Sandwell) the cost of running the district health authority headquarters alone is virtually 4.5 per cent (£1,647,150) of the total district budget (£36,812,000). If one then adds the cost of administrators (scale one and above) and their secretarial support employed in hospital and community units (£935,000), plus management services for nurses, midwives, health visitors and

district nurses in these units (£687,750), then clearly the total figure exceeds 8 per cent. These figures do not include departmental heads whose function is mainly managerial in service such as physiotherapy, chiropody, pharmacy and physics.

Regional health authorities carry out many administrative and monitoring activities on behalf of district health authorities in areas such as hospital design and building, performance indicators, financial planning, legal services, senior staff appointments and contracts. The cost of these activities should be apportioned to districts in determining total costs. Each community health council adds another £30,000 or so per district. Only by considering all management costs can one make valid comparisons with other countries.

Yours faithfully,
B. S. SMITH,
Sandwell District General Hospital, Lyndon,
West Bromwich, West Midlands.

Stamp of religion

From the Master of Churchill College, Cambridge

Sir, I was greatly perturbed to hear of the decision of the Post Office to stamp all letters with the message "Jesus is Alive" (Report, March 1, early editions). It is obscene for a public monopoly to propagate a message which is most offensive to its assertiveness, certainly to humanists like myself and I suspect, to other non-Christians.

To abuse a legally established central position in communications, to trample underfoot the sensitivity of a minority by using everybody's letters, without asking for consent, for such a message is highly intolerant.

Yours faithfully,
HERMANN BONDI,
Churchill College, Cambridge.

Child witnesses

From the Chairman of the Magistrates' Association

Sir, Esther Rantzen (March 2) draws your readers' attention to the concept, proposed in the Criminal Justice Bill, of courts being able to use a closed-circuit television link for a child's cross-examination. The Magistrates' Association wholeheartedly supports this provision.

We would, however, point out that as at present drafted the Bill limits the facility to evidence at the crown court and Court of Appeal, leaving the child still to come face to face with an alleged perpetrator of a sexual offence in the magistrates' court, in committal proceedings or in care proceedings in the juvenile court.

We hope very much that the Government will include an amendment in the forthcoming Report stage of the Bill to rectify this anomaly and extend much needed protection to children in whichever court they need to appear as a witness in these traumatic circumstances.

Yours etc,
J. E. HOSKING,
Chairman of Council,
The Magistrates' Association,
28 Fitzroy Square, W1.

The fourth paragraph of yesterday's letter from Professor Emeritus G. Ionescu should have started: "This is monstrously inept." In the present triangular institutional arrangement of the Community, it is the Council of Ministers which is the executive, and which accepts, rejects or modifies the projects of the Commission or the Parliament."

Lucky for some

From Dr Ian Richardson

Sir, Ray Whitney stated in his article (February 26) that the doctors were won over when Bevan "stuffed their mouths with gold". This phrase is in danger of joining Arthur C. Clough's "Thou shalt not strive officiously to keep alive" in a common distortion.

Bevan was referring to the consultants. General practitioners were dealt with somewhat differently. They were faced with the threat that if they did not join the NHS in a matter of days, they would forfeit their rights to compensation for the loss of goodwill of the practice.

They were accorded a princely sum of 13 shillings per annum for each patient on the list. Hardly avaricious!

Yours faithfully,
IAN RICHARDSON,
Mullach-na-Beinne,
Laggan,
Newtonmore, Perthshire,
February 29.

Rover risk

From Mr Roger H. R. Darby

Sir, Much debate will take place over the next several weeks concerning the viability of British Aerospace's purchase of the Rover Group. A risk which occurs to me is one of a mediocre industrial culture permeating a higher or better one. Few would dispute instances such as the BEA/BOAC merger where bad habits and poor operating practices of one party had an adverse effect on the other. It took strong management and privatisation to rid British Airways of its merger inheritance.

As the unproud owner of an up-market Maestro which is now on its third clutch assembly in eight months, I fear for the future of British Aerospace's hard-won reputation for reliability. If the Rover Group's attention to detail is allowed to spread, British Aerospace products may literally drop out of the sky. I would feel more sanguine if commercial history was scattered with cases of higher industrial culture benefiting lesser ones. Perhaps the Rover Group should be sold to one of Britain's foreign aerospace competitors.

Yours faithfully,
R. H. R. DARBY,
High Brians,
Sevenoaks, Kent,
March 2.

As though they had never been

From the Director of the Imperial War Museum

Sir, Mr Bendixson's plea (February 24) for a national inventory of funerary monuments deserves wide support but there is, I suggest, an even more urgent national requirement for an inventory of war memorials. Every town and virtually every village in the country has at least one memorial to those who have died in the conflicts of the 20th century.

These memorials were erected by the State, by local communities, by companies, by schools, by individuals and by other bodies. They are in the care of a similarly diverse range of authorities. Most are well looked after but many are suffering from the ravages of time and pollution, with inscriptions becoming illegible and details of sculpture destroyed.

Somewhat surprisingly, there is no inventory of war memorials and hence no way of telling how

many require restoration or are in danger of destruction. Various bodies hold partial records, notably the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, and this museum. However, such records relate to only a small percentage of extant memorials and I have long believed that a national database should be established.

The task is finite, manageable, and (comparatively) inexpensive; unfortunately, however, it is no one's responsibility and hence virtually impossible to fund from established sources. Yet if we, after more than 40 years of peace in Europe, allow even a part of our heritage of war memorials to be lost through neglect, we shall rightly be censured by future generations.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BORG, Director,
Imperial War Museum,
Lambeth Road, SE1.

Violence on TV

From Dr Barrie Gunter

Sir, In his letter (February 27) Dr William Belsey suggests that certain of the findings contained in the IBA's recent report, *Violence on Television: What the Viewers Think*, may have misrepresented public opinion about TV violence.

The report concerns what viewers themselves think and feel about violence on the television they watch. The research probes general opinions about television violence as well as perceptions of violence in particular types of programmes (e.g., drama, news) and in named television series.

In some cases opinions about television violence were elicited without direct prompts while, in other instances, respondents were asked to indicate their agreement or disagreement with explicit statements of opinion about violence on television. This is clearly stated at the beginning of the report.

The impression given by Dr Belsey is that the IBA's report relies predominantly on one type of question in which respondents give open responses. This is incorrect. We state more than once that different types of questioning were found to lead to widely ranging opinions. This is one of the central findings of our research.

We do not give special credence to one method of probing public opinion. We accept that some measures may under-estimate the prevalence of a particular point of view, but equally other measures could over-estimate the number who hold it. Surely, the best estimate will derive from employing a variety of different types of question, as we have done in our latest research.

Yours faithfully,
BARRIE GUNTER (Head of Research),
Independent Broadcasting Authority,
70 Brompton Road, SW3,
March 3.

Religion in schools

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, The many comments on the current Education Reform Bill by various religious organizations and leaders all assume that there should still be a special place for religion in state schools and for church schools in the educational system of this country. Is this necessarily the case?

About one half of the population never voluntarily attend any religious ceremony, and about one quarter have no religious belief. This large minority — larger than any single religious (or racial) minority, and amounting to several million people — are in no way inferior to the majority who do have religious beliefs and attend religious ceremonies. We are just as well educated, well informed, well balanced and well behaved as anyone else and our spiritual, moral, cultural and mental faculties are equally vigorous.

The place for religion is in the home and the church, not in the school or the college. There is no doubt that young people should be taught about religion, as about everything else of importance, but there is much doubt whether they should be subjected to acts of worship or any kind of instruction or indoctrination in any particular form of belief, whether religious or non-religious. Can we not establish the principle that religion should take its natural place alongside all other controversial subjects in the school curriculum and the wider education system?

Yours etc,
NICOLAS WALTER,
Rationalist Press Association,
88 Islington High Street, N1.

In tablets of stone

From Mr H. I. Alexander

Sir, Mr Philip Howard's article this morning (March 2) on "lapidary phrases" recalled to me an epitaph engraved on a tombstone in a Welsh churchyard. Unlike Dr Samuel Johnson's cynical comment in 1775, it was brutally honest.

The inscription ran: Here lies the body of Thomas Jones Who was born a man and died a grocer.

So sad and yet, in varying degrees, so true (would you not agree?) of the vast majority of the human race, including, Yours faithfully,
H. I. ALEXANDER
(retired schoolmaster),
26 Fellbrook, Ham,
Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey.



ON THIS DAY

MARCH 5 1881

James Abram Garfield (1831-81), 20th President of the United States, was a Republican of radical opinions and strong anti-slavery convictions. An orator of great power, his considerable ability as a politician was never tested in the highest office: on July 2, 1881, he was shot by a disappointed place-seeker and died in September. Since 1937 the inauguration of the President has been on January 20; until then it was on March 4.

PRESIDENT GARFIELD'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS. (REUTERS TELEGRAM.)

WASHINGTON, March 4. General Garfield, on assuming office today as President of the United States, delivered the following inaugural address:

"Fellow Citizens... The will of the nation, speaking with the voice of battle and through an amended Constitution, has filled the great promises of 1776 by proclaiming liberty throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof. The elevation of the negro race from slavery to the full rights of citizenship is the most important political change we have known since the adoption of the Constitution of 1787. No thoughtful man can fail to appreciate its beneficent effect upon our institutions and people. It has freed us from the perpetual danger of war and dissolution; it has added immensely to the moral and industrial forces of our people; it has liberated the master as well as the slave from a relation which wronged and enfeebled both; it has surrendered to their own guardianship the manhood of more than five millions of people, and has opened to each one of them a career of freedom and usefulness; it has given a new inspiration to the power of self-help in both races by making labour more honourable to the one and more necessary to the other. The influence of this force will grow greater and greater and bear richer fruit with coming years. No doubt, the great change has caused serious disturbance to our Southern community; this is to be deplored, though it was unavoidable, but those who resisted the change should remember that under our institution there was no middle ground for the negro race between slavery and equal citizenship. There can be no permanently disfranchised peasantry in the United States. Freedom can never yield its fulness of blessings so long as the law or its administration places the smallest obstacle in the pathway of any virtuous citizen. The emancipated race have already made remarkable progress. With unquestioning devotion to the Union, with patience and gentleness, not born of fear, they have followed the light as God gave them to see the light. They are rapidly laying material foundations of self-support, widening the circle of their intelligence, and beginning to enjoy the blessings that gather around the homes of the industrious poor. They deserve the generous encouragement of all good men. So far as my authority can lawfully extend, they shall enjoy the full and equal protection of the Constitution and laws. Their free enjoyment of equal suffrage is still in question, and a frank statement of the issue may aid its solution. It is alleged that in many communities negro citizens are practically denied freedom of the ballot. In so far as the truth of this allegation is admitted, it is answered that in many places honest local government is impossible if the mass of uneducated negroes are allowed to vote. These are grave allegations. So far as the latter is true, it is the only palliation that can be offered for opposing the freedom of the ballot. Bad local government is certainly a great evil, which ought to be prevented, but to violate the freedom and sanctity of the suffrage is more than an evil — it is a crime, which, if persisted in, will destroy the Government itself. In other lands it has been held in high treason to compass the death of the King; it should be counted no less a crime here to strangle our sovereign power and stifle its voice."

March 5-11 1988

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Battles in black and white



Late this evening, with a large moon overhead and the iron-hard winter farmland underfoot, a tiny woman with a badger's nose and a powerful two-way radio will set out from her home to do battle against a shadowy army of lurchers, lampers, poachers, sadists and badger-diggers.

Her nights are peopled by the stuff of fantastic dreams and children's yarns, and have been so for the past 20 years. It is Jack London and Roald Dahl made flesh; here are hideous canine confessions with the shoulders of a bull-terrier and the shanks of a greyhound; wicked snares hovering over burrow mouths; saw-edged shovels that can carve through roots and be folded in a trice on to a man's belt; foxes paralysed by torch beams; Land-Rovers lurking; somewhere not very far away a creature is howling like a tortured mother while the gas cylinder man looks on and smiles his sinister smile.

The whole tangled floor of the tiny woman's world is alive and bleeding while the rest of us lie in oblivion beneath the sheets. Quite often she has been knocked about by large men, mostly in the dark, or stabbed, or hurled to the ground and attacked by dogs in the depths of a copse. But she has also been assaulted in the town, flung up against a plate glass window in broad daylight by men she half knows from the night. Usually she tells them to grow up.

The police know about her, and are on her side, while fearing for her safety. The farmers fear her, even though there has been the odd hayrick fire that looks like a reprisal. She should have been murdered by now, with the life that she leads—a scatter of bloody rags in a ditch, or something hastily shovelled into a shallow

grave. But it is too late now; her profile is so high that the villains of the dark probably dare not lay a finger on her.

She calls herself Chris Ferris, which is only a pseudonym, and it is much more accurate to continue thinking of her simply as the tiny woman. The land through which she rambles bears such features as Long Field, Old Cherry Sett and Oak Dell; but again, these are made-up names to mask the true whereabouts of the 800 acres. She has, she says, received quite enough attention from strangers already.

If one really wanted to pin down the location of the patch through her stylized topography, one could probably do so, but to play *Masquerade*-type games would be to miss the point—namely, that the tiny woman has waged, and continues to wage the most extraordinary, the most hazardous campaign against two "growth crimes" that have gone virtually unnoticed by town-dwellers. These crimes are the related ones of badger-baiting, and the lucrative theft of the animals for taxidermy. Both are carried out with a barbarity worthy of the Middle Ages.

Baiting can take one of two forms, *ad hoc* or set piece, and it is hard to say which is the nastier. With the former, it could just be some men out with their terriers, bent on the thrill of seeing an ungainly, low-slung, half-blind furry thing being torn open in the torchlight. With the latter, the stakes are higher, and the RSPCA has heard of sow badgers—they are more aggressive in motherhood—attracting bets of £1,000 in a baiting. These crude descendants of the cock fight are usually organized on derelict land, or beneath motorways, or on a remote fellside, complete with lookouts.

So bad has the problem become that the National Federation of Badger Groups has formed several

She has been stabbed and kicked, set upon by dogs and beaten with a rifle butt. But nothing can deter Chris Ferris from her nightly badger crusade. Alan Franks reports

regional patrols. Some of these have been known to take direct action against cars which they believe belong to baiters, by removing valves from the vehicles' tyres. But usually they tread carefully and keep themselves within the law.

For the tiny woman, committed to going it alone, the whole thing started when she found herself suffering from sleepless nights as the result of a back injury caused by a fall. At first she would just put a coat on over her nightdress and wander the streets of the town, sometimes being stopped and questioned by the police.

Then she changed the route of her nocturnal rambles, turning off the lighted street into dark lanes, then striking out across the open fields, under the motorway and up towards High Ridge. The clothes on her seven-stone frame are scruffy and unwashed, still scented by the accretions of badger muskings.



She found that if she didn't carry a torch but allowed herself to come fully into play, the badgers would not run away. If then she sat on the ground, motionless, with her knees raised and her hands clasped together in front of her shins, then gradually, tentatively, the rather comic and curious forms of the animals would gather from the undergrowth to inspect their guest.

She is indeed an intriguing sight, with the careful unobtrusiveness of a professional naturalist, and with boyish, badger-grey hair and

a luminescent gaze. When once she had been musked, a privilege accorded to very few humans, she knew that she was in. This involves the badger shifting into reverse gear, lumbering backwards, raising the tail beneath which is the musk-secreting gland, and dropping a tiny deposit on the recipient. Living as they do in a world of scent, this is a sort of marker of user-friendly things, an expression of olfactory trust.

It was not until she got the radio—£2,000 worth of hardware donated by a local businessman called Charlie Foxtro—that she felt the battle against the lampers was swinging her way. Lampers are not the cosy archaism for which it is often taken. It is a thoroughly modern pursuit, carried out by high-tech predators with powerful beams of light attached to their shotguns. Many of these poachers also have bleepers fitted to the collars of their specially-bred Jack Russells and Flatcoats, through which they can locate the position of the terrier once it has found its way into a set.

To the tiny woman these things are an unspeakable outrage, like nuking a crèche; she has all but become a badger herself—a badger different from the rest only through her access to the human conscience. Even with the radio there have been hairy incidents.

"I was out one night—it was February 8. I was met by a sow and musked, and we walked on to the farmland and straight into two lampers and their dogs. One of the lampers went for her, and the lamper laughed. I unzipped my anorak and spoke to Charlie Foxtro on the radio, lifting it up towards my mouth. The lamper

grabbed hold of it, but it is strapped around my body underneath three layers of clothing. He must have thought he could just pull it out from my anorak, but anyone wanting to take it would have to undress me first.

"He kept pulling and pulling; even when I had fallen over, he was dragging me along the ground by it. I could hear Charlie Foxtro's voice but I couldn't say anything back, so all he would have heard at the other end were the bumping and thudding noises.

"The man dragged me between the dogs and the badger, by which time the sow realized what was going on and went for the lamper. When their tempers are up, badgers can be vicious. They have sharp teeth which they insert deep into the flesh and then twist. I don't know exactly what happened next, but after the lampers had gone, I saw that the badger had a long strip of flesh hanging from her side, torn away."

There is a five-stitch scar at the base of her left little finger which she says is the result of a knife attack at the end of October, and many other accounts of kickings, blows from a rifle butt, even threats on her life. All her stories are endorsed by Charlie Foxtro, with whom she has devised a coded system of grid references for the area.



To meet her is to be reminded that fear, like beauty, is largely in the eye of the beholder. Since she cannot accept a single premise on which her enemies operate, she seems unable to respond to the language of their intimidation. In this she is reminiscent of another unknown woman, also short on inches but long on stature, also an animal lover, and also something of a vigilante.

This other woman was the first to establish, 25 years ago, that Rachman was using dogs to harass old people in his tenement blocks, and to say as much in public. When he "visited" her with a heavily built accomplice and a pair of underfed Alsatians, her

reaction was simple: "I will not talk to you until you have given those poor dogs a square meal." Upon which he turned and left and, in the end, lost.

"There is only one man who makes me feel fear," says the tiny woman, "and that is the gas cylinder man. I don't know why. He has never hurt me. He appears now and then with his cylinder, which he uses to drive rabbits from their burrows so that he can shoot them. I have also seen him about with men whom I know to be badger-diggers. He is very softly spoken, with a sort of lisp; a big, fleshy man with fat fingers and lots of rings, and hardly any eyebrows. He seems to have some influence over the others."

But even he has not been seen for a while. Out of the Darkness, by Chris Ferris, will be published next Thursday by Unwin Hyman (£12.95).

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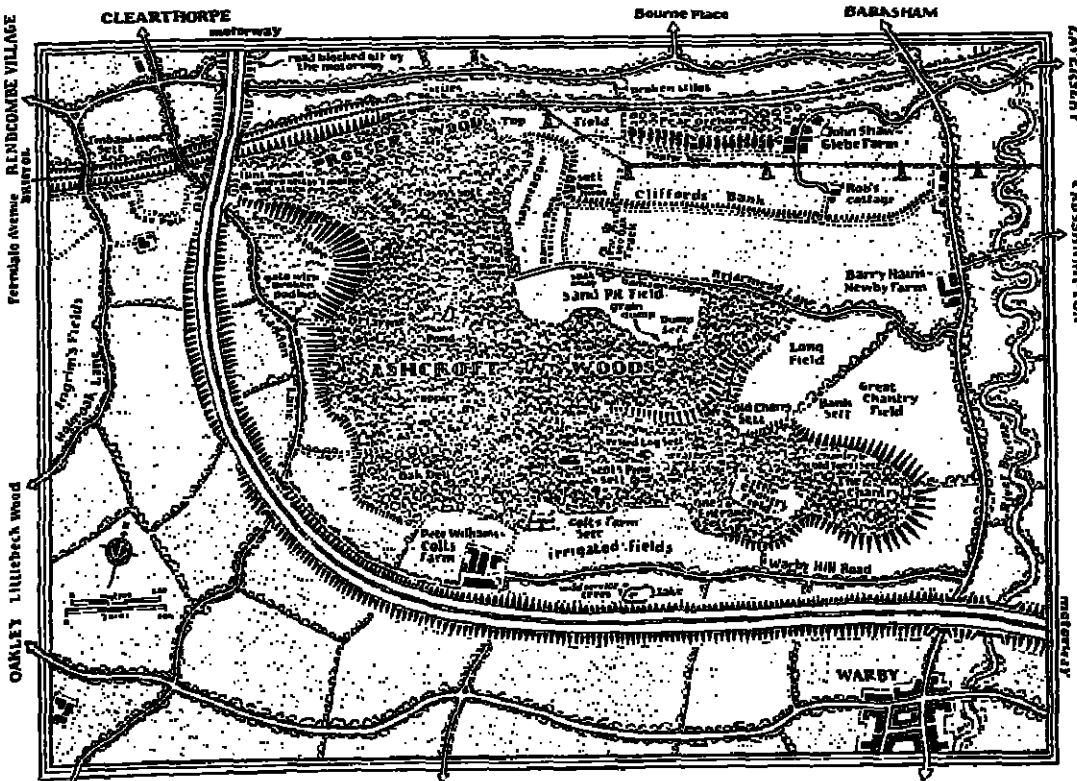
Killing fields of home

In this beautiful countryside, there is a blood price on every badger's head

This is the patch of land which Chris Ferris patrols, with its thick woodland, tracks and setts all within spitting distance of the motorway and the railway track. It is among this terrain that her "family" of badgers—Bess, Susie, Jet, Jude and the rest—have made their homes.

There are steep banks between some of the fields, the sheerest containing Bank Sett, so visible and vulnerable to human raids. Not long ago there were 28 grown badgers in the area of the map; now there are just six, and the reasons are not hard to find.

Today a stuffed badger can fetch £150 and more; just a head mounted on a wooden block will sell for about £125. As often as not,



deals are clinched in public houses, with the product changing hands in car parks. Through the Badgers Act of 1973 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981, the theft or killing of the animals can be punished by fines of up to £2,000. Yet such stiff penalties are seldom imposed; the

offenders are frequently unemployed men with outstanding fines to pay from previous convictions.

Last year there were 54 prosecutions for the theft, digging, baiting, killing or injuring of badgers, but the fines imposed totalled only £12,500. The outlawing of the

practice may even have made matters worse by adding to the kudos of owning a trophy. Last year was particularly bad around Nottinghamshire, Cheshire and the Wirral, but as each police force cracks down, so the poachers move on down the motorway to another hunting ground.

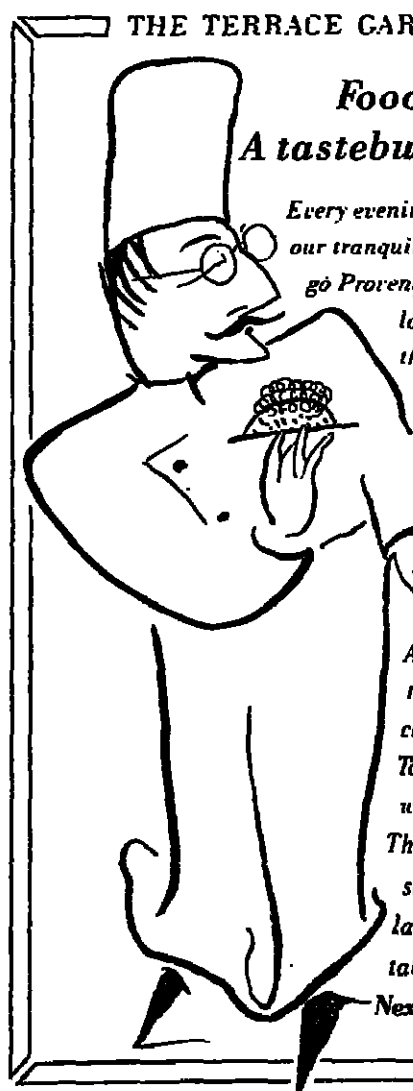
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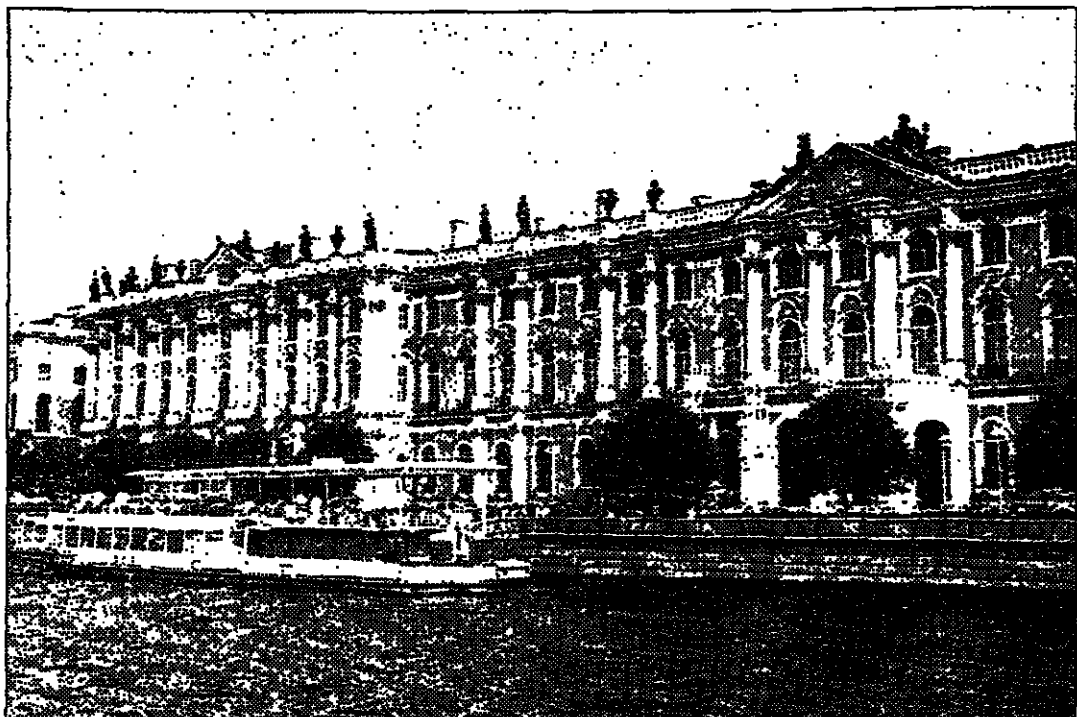
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TRAVEL 1

A town called Lenin



Ancien regime: Life at the Winter Palace (left) and St Catherine's Palace (right) was shattered by Lenin's arrival. Only Cossack dress survives unchanged, proudly worn for tourists

A haunting opaqueness rested on the imperial city, tantalizing until the mist lifted over the 42 islands and there was a teasing glimmer of cupolas and slender spires.

Just a day in Leningrad, but a privileged view from the gilded French windows of the Winter Palace. Grand triumphal arches bursting with rococo shells and scrolls. Glory Chariots, massive Tritons sitting grandly astride bronze horses, this 300-year-old creation of Peter the Great is tinged with an enjoyable melancholy.

The classical palaces, lemon yellow and apricot confections, are now technical colleges. Students sit in the salons that once reeked of incense lit by footmen in white garters.

Lenin took over the graceful School for Daughters of the Nobility, and the pupils loved. After his death in 1924, the city honoured him and changed its name from St Petersburg.

Along the riverbank, many old shuttered houses of the aristocrats who toasted Holy

Ann Morrow steps off a Baltic cruise ship and joins the obligatory queue to see the splendours of Leningrad

Russia now have crumpled net festoons, and an air of neglect. "The workers have moved to these houses of the nobility from the slums of Leningrad," said our young Intourist guide, Irene, with her Mrs Gorbachov hairdo. There are few cars on the Nevsky Prospekt. One or two grey lorries clattered along this leafy copy of the Champs Elysees.

On Vasilyevsky Island an old woman, dressed in overalls, a green beret, grey knickers, sat on her balcony and pointed to some colonnaded elegance. "Old Stocking Exchange," but now a maritime museum.

These soft-faced babushkas can be fierce. Try to nip past the queue for the Byzantine interior of St Isaac's and they chase you away from the great Vitali bronze and oak doors. Queues are important. Hours are spent waiting beside a glass

and gold cherubs in the dress circle box. Perhaps she too thought it was a second XI performance and the orchestra, with its soapy horns, not the best.

At last the Hermitage. They no longer wind up the life-sized figure of Peter the Great, with his fierce black Hitler moustache, because as he ground into animation, the sight of Little Father so terrified the Soviet citizens that many fainted and had heart attacks.

Ignoring advice to concentrate on the icons, and with only three hours, there were

greedy visits to four Rembrandt galleries.

A quick moment on the Gornaya Staircase where gold mirrors imitate windows, and once the Imperial family walked down the white Carrara marble steps for the ceremonial blessing of the Neva, iridescent on its summer journey through lagoons and under curving bridges to join the Gulf of Finland.

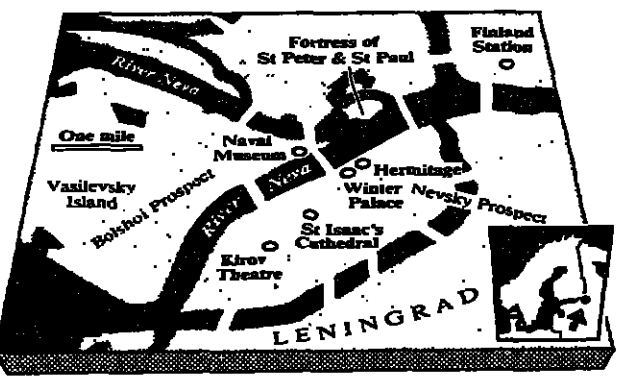
Then to the Armorial Hall, with its columns of gold, to see the dusty footstool and throne of the last tsar. His restful garden, with earth 6ft deep, had a wistful charm as yellow and green leaves whirled distractedly round the statues of nymphs and along the paths of dry fountains and ageing mosaic tiles.

A wan sun fastened on the elaborate gold of James Cox's 18th-century Peacock Clock in the Pavilion Hall where the Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia skated across the silver birch floor to catch the peacock spreading its tail, the owl spinning on the golden tree and the cock crowing.

The 5,000-ton sleek Ocean

Islander, all brass and polished wood, sailed out of the Imperial City's waterway at dusk. Passengers wrapped in blankets sipped bouillon on the promenade deck. The cruise had been old-fashioned travel at its best, beginning with gravitas in a waterside restaurant in Copenhagen and then tingling days on the frisky Baltic.

Finally Helsinki: everyone felt that after Leningrad nothing could be quite as exciting, but it was a welcoming crisp morning, a blue sky, heralding snow. The open market by the water's edge was bright and selling fox fur hats and better things. That was before perestroika, so perhaps this was the gaiety of freedom, however fragile.



TRAVEL NEWS

Travel is a chore for most businessmen, according to a survey by the travel agent Pickfords. Only eight per cent of executives polled saw business travel as a pleasure. Far from being a perk, over 90 per cent rated it no higher than "a necessary part of the job".

Spreading our wings
The number of Britons going abroad for their principal holiday will this summer exceed those holidaying at home. The prediction comes from the managing director of the country's biggest tour operator, Roger Hooper of Intasun, who says: "This is the year that the lines on the chart will cross."

Slowly does it

Bicycles, local buses and the foot are the methods of transport proposed in China by Ganbei Tours (01-688 2830). By limiting the pace and the number of places visited, Ganbei, which means good health, hopes its customers will see more of the real China than those on faster-moving conventional tours. The 20-day Hong Kong, Beijing, Suzhou, Shanghai trip costs from £1,399 inclusive of scheduled flights from London. The first departure is scheduled for next February.

Less cash . . .

Travel agents have produced a variety of discounts and special offers in the fight for more bookings. Lunn Poly (01-638 3676) will reduce the price of long haul summer holidays by up to £70 a person. It quotes a holiday for four in Florida for £1,886.50, a total saving of £280. The offer lasts until the end of this month.

. . . or less worry

The rival agency chain Hogg Robinson (0433-755555) offers the novel booking incentive of a 24-hour telephone help line for keyholders keeping an eye on holidaymakers' homes. The scheme provides instant legal advice and a database of 1,000 trade association members to deal with most household emergencies. Hogg Robinson's Holiday Homecare service may help to

relieve the anxiety of travellers who told a recent MORI poll that a break-in at home was their biggest holiday worry.

Tailor-made flights

Two for the price of one . . . but not yet. Customers replenishing their spring wardrobes at Austin Reed to the tune of £350 (only £250 for account holders) are being offered an option on a free air ticket to France. But flights on the buy-one-tick-get-the-second-one-free deal do not start until November.

TRAVEL BOOKS

For dipping or more studious reading *A Guide to Provence* by Michael Jacobs (Viking, £12.95). It is a rewarding companion. My guess is that it will give particular pleasure to those who feel no need of a guidebook to this much loved place in the sun. Art history is Dr. Jacobs' discipline but his interests and sources are far wider. It is written as a series of essays on topics as diverse as the castles of courtly love and the artist in Provence.

An earlier volume in the same series is *A Guide to Central Europe by our man in Vienna, Richard Bassett* (Viking, £10.95) now in paperback (Penguin, £6.95). This is the first guidebook since the First World War to treat central Europe as a cultural entity. He writes of Budapest, Prague, Carlsbad, Transylvania, Trieste and the extremes of the Hapsburg Empire which 40 years after the iron curtain division of Europe are still best enjoyed in the light of their cultural and historical unity.

Brief encounters with European cities are one of the fastest growing sectors of the holiday business. *Weekend Cities* by James Bentley (George Philip, £7.95) is a selective guide to Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berlin, Florence, London, Paris, Venice and Vienna written for multiple weekenders. For each destination there are itineraries for a one day excursion out of town, a one day excursion out of town.

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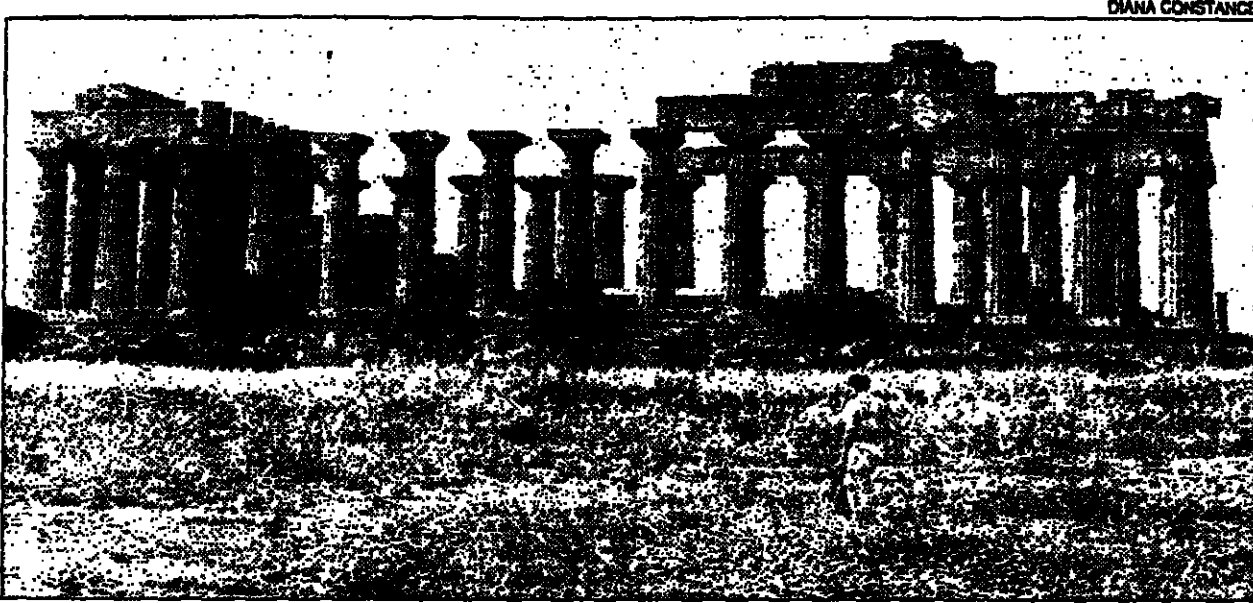
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TRAVEL 2

Holiday home of the Greek gods



Two cultures for the price of one: the Temple of Hera at Selinunte, which was wrecked by Hannibal and finished off by an earthquake but restored in 1956, is flanked by two more typical images of modern Sicily at Ragusa (left) and Catania (right)



What had come upon the Greeks in Italy last year after exploring the Roman playgrounds around the Bay of Naples. An hour's drive south brought us to Paestum and the experience of seeing the great tufa pillars of the temples turn almost translucent in the golden light of the setting sun.

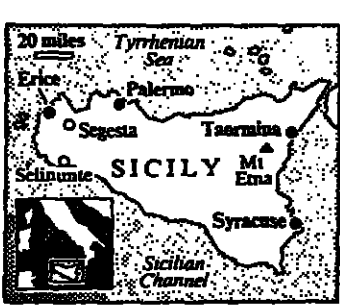
These architectural masterpieces, inspired by the Temple of Zeus at Olympia, were built by Greek colonists who came ashore here in the second millennium BC to found an empire in this bounteous land, and in doing so brought the legends of Odysseus into the light of history. Intrigued to find Greek temples of this size and beauty so far from home, we set our own course for Sicily, and the heart of Magna Graecia, packing our watercolours, as did the travellers of the Grand Tour two centuries ago.

Flying in to Palermo we had a memorable view of Etna, trailing its smoking streamer across the distant horizon. Forge of the Gods and home of the Cyclops, it was an appropriate scene-setter for this turbulent island. We drove from the capital to Erice, a small medieval town 900 metres up on top of a mountain, which was settled, according to legend, by Aeneas and the Trojans. Dining that night on *cous-cous* was a

John Crossland takes his sketch pad to explore the temples where Zeus and Apollo lorded it over Sicily

reminder that nothing is quite what it seems in Sicily, where civilizations overlap like leaves on a market artichoke. The dish was brought here by the Arabs, who were blown across from Africa by the same winds which had brought earlier invaders, the Carthaginians.

The next morning we drove from the cloud-bound medieval maze of Erice, down the mountain and back to sunny Greece at Segesta. Even this was not what it seemed, for the temple, the perfect symmetry of which is first seen outlined against a dark mountainside, proved on closer inspection to be standing in complete isolation. It has been called a monument to civilization and commands one of those views which can reduce even a coachload of tourists to stunned silence. But we knew from



our Thucydides that it also marks an act of arrogance and stupidity. Segesta, a small city-state consumed with envy for its rich neighbour Selinunte, drew Athens into a Sicilian civil war, in 413BC, which was ultimately to prove the downfall of both. The Athenian architect who had been commissioned to give the Segestans a temple to rival the Parthenon, fled before the final touches, like flutings and carvings, could be added. My inspiration, on the other hand, grew as we climbed on foot to the back of the theatre, hollowed out of a nearby hillside, and looked back to see the temple columns diminish to Lilliputian proportions.

Trying to paint the subject was less satisfactory, as I had chosen a day when Italian television was shooting a docu-

mentary on Magna Graecia, and I found myself dodging between the columns, just ahead of the camera crew. I was foiled by the PA of an Italian Magnus Magnusson, and sought the company of a German ornithologist looking for rare hawks.

We wanted to see how proud Selinunte had fared, and after a difficult drive to the south coast we spotted the walls and columns of the city, a desolate site perched on a bluff above a nondescript beach resort. The mood was not helped by a heavy sea mist which rolled in. Walking inland, however, the former glory of Selinunte was revealed in the shape of the temple of Hera—levelled by Hannibal, re-erected, destroyed again by earthquake and restored in 1956.

I settled down with my sketch pad and could easily visualize it at the height of its power; the cadmium orange pillars and entablature, carrying graceful carvings like that of Actaeon rent by Artemis' dogs, which can be seen in Palermo archaeological museum.

From Selinunte we headed east across the golden granary of the interior, which gave way gradually to extensive lemon groves—a reminder that in front of us lay one of the most important seaports in history. Syracuse, the city which humbled Athenian power in the Peloponnesian War. Syracuse is a white city; its

ancient heart, the island of Ortygia, gives off a positively Cycladic gleam, and its alley ways follow the ancient Greek street pattern. We strolled across the bridge from the inner harbour, past the temple of Apollo, its pillars framing the blue, orange and silver pyramids of fish in the street market, and on to the sea front at the Fountain of Arethusa.

The delightful myth of a nymph swimming to Sicily to escape the attentions of her lover can be seen as an allegory for Greek colonization.

The next evening we drove out past the ancient theatre to the Epipoli ridge, from which we could see the remains of the 22km-long walls of ancient Syracuse, longer even than Rome's, and also explore the Greek fort of Euryalus, still scarred by siege catapult shots. All this limestone came from quarries, the *latomae*, which also served as a POW camp for the Athenians after the defeat of their expedition against Syracuse, and where, Thucydides says, they suffered extremes of hunger and thirst.

The great vault of the Ear of Dionysus was filled during our visit with the dulcet notes of a French choir, but the rock, still scored by the prisoners' picks, seemed to throw back a mournful echo and we were glad to escape into the sunlight and drive on to Taormina.

The view from the Greek theatre here must be the most dramatic backdrop afforded any actor. The town, on its cliff-edge perch, is still an affluent playground after 3,000 years. There we ate out in the shadow of the Roman waterworks arena, sipped coffee in the medieval streets in company with the shades of Goethe, D.H. Lawrence and Field-Marshal Kesselring, or joined the bathers going down to the beaches on the funicular.

As we drove up to the crater of Etna we saw the vivid green of young vines pushing through the black lava fields. Our driver commented: "These farmers must be mad to build on the side of a volcano!" But I reflected that this is what Sicily has always done—turning successive waves of invasion to its advantage.

TRAVEL NOTES

Alitalia flies daily in summer to Palermo. We took advantage of the excellent Rome Transit service, a guided tour by bus, which leaves Rome Airport daily at 11am, 1pm and 3pm, for the Roman site of Ostia Antica. I recommend the Hotel Moderna at Erice as a base from which to see the ruins of Western Sicily. Taormina is well served by the Excelsior Palace, and Syracuse by the Park Hotel.

HOLIDAYS & VILLAS

<p>WINTER SPORTS</p> <p>FUN ON THE SLOPES WITH ...</p> <p>Whizz</p> <p>SNOW! SNOW! SNOW!</p> <p>PICNICS, BAR-B-QUES & PARTIES!</p> <p>Excellent skiing conditions - Top resorts</p> <p>18th March 2089 20th March 2289</p> <p>April from 2179</p> <p>1 wk. caters for singles, couples or groups</p> <p>Loads of fun for all ages</p> <p>RING SKIWHIZZ 01 370 0997 (24 hrs)</p> <p>ATOL 2283 S/C from £159</p> <p>HELICOPTER SKIING</p> <p>The first permanent Heliski base in Europe. Close to Mont Blanc, 2 hours drive from Geneva.</p> <p>Full board accommodation.</p> <p>Sole agents:</p> <p>01 351 4466.</p> <p>DHM TRAVEL</p>	<p>SPECIAL INTEREST</p> <p>Exodus Expeditions</p> <p>THE ADVENTURE EXPERTS</p> <p>Mountains, deserts, islands, game parks, rivers & lakes to the world's most unusual destinations.</p> <p>Write for WALKING ADVENTURES brochure: Exodus (Dept. T), 100 Woodlands Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 9JL. Tel: 01424 831464</p> <p>SALZBURG MUSIC FESTIVAL</p> <p>Tickets & inclusive travel arrangements available throughout the period.</p> <p>Full details: PHILIP SIMON TRAVEL, 11, New Street, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 0AH. 0474 45491</p> <p>KENYA LUXURY Safari tours, 10 days, 12 days, 15 days, 18 days, 21 days, 24 days, 27 days, 30 days, 33 days, 36 days, 39 days, 42 days, 45 days, 48 days, 51 days, 54 days, 57 days, 60 days, 63 days, 66 days, 69 days, 72 days, 75 days, 78 days, 81 days, 84 days, 87 days, 90 days, 93 days, 96 days, 99 days, 102 days, 105 days, 108 days, 111 days, 114 days, 117 days, 120 days, 123 days, 126 days, 129 days, 132 days, 135 days, 138 days, 141 days, 144 days, 147 days, 150 days, 153 days, 156 days, 159 days, 162 days, 165 days, 168 days, 171 days, 174 days, 177 days, 180 days, 183 days, 186 days, 189 days, 192 days, 195 days, 198 days, 201 days, 204 days, 207 days, 210 days, 213 days, 216 days, 219 days, 222 days, 225 days, 228 days, 231 days, 234 days, 237 days, 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DRINK

Cashing in on the special reserves

Madeira is making a comeback. That at least is what Tim Waters, the senior wine buyer at Oddbins, would have us believe. Last month he shipped two container loads of this sweet, fortified dessert wine to Britain.

Unlike other wine shops, Oddbins have decided to specialise in superior aged madeiras, most of which are five or 10-year-old wines, but there are rarer solera and vintage madeiras on offer too. Apart from their distinguished aged style, what makes this madeira range so appealing is its low price: the five-year-old reserves, for instance, sell for £5.99 a bottle here, while elsewhere they cost up to £2.50 extra.

My favourite, Cossart's Finest Five Year Old Reserve madeira, is the Malmsbury version whose rich, plummy raisiny taste is very good value at £5.99. But the glorious 10-year-old Special Reserve Malmsbury, also from Cossart & Gordon, with its multi-layered, luscious walnut and fruit-cake-like taste, is more than twice the price for twice the price (£10.95).

I was also very taken with the special Reserve Verdelho (£10.95), a drier style whose smoky scent and soft, tangy, velvety palate would make a great mid morning or mid afternoon wine.

Blandy's 1863 Malmsbury Solera, which has a rich, nutty almost waxy style, is worth the £26.95 asked for it. More magnificent still is the 1907 Blandy's Bual, a rare vintage madeira priced at £39.95.

ERIC BEAUMONT



which has a fine, intense, savoury sweetness — well worth splashing out on.

March merits more economic, and less fortified, vinous options and if anyone was put off by the prices of my recommended red '85 and white '86 burgundies the other week, I have some cut-price alternatives that have much of their class and taste, at a fraction of the cost.

Mysteriously, Marks & Spencer has recently reduced the price of its splendid own-label 1986 Chablis, from the La Chablisienne co-operative, from £6.50 to £5.99 a bottle. However, the price of this delicious, crisp, verdant, herbaceous white will go back to £6.50 before the month is out.

Winecellars at 153-155 Wandsworth High Street, London SW18, have similarly lowered the prices of its co-operative produced burgundies made by the excellent Groupement de Producteurs de Buxy who appear to do no wrong. The '86 Bourgogne Blanc, oak-aged Clos de Chénives with its golden colour and rich, waxy scent plus a fine, firm, plump, palate, does need more time to mature. But given a year or so of ageing, it will be superb. Great value at £5.55 at the warehouse or £6.50 from branches of The Market.

The '85 Bourgogne Pinot Noir red from Buxy is wonderfully drinkable now. I loved its superb ripe, upfront, plummy, beetroot-like Pinot Noir fruit. At just £3.99 a bottle from Winecellars (The Market £4.55), this must be the '85 red burgundy bargain buy of all time. Miss this one and you'll regret it.

For those who hate the bother of having to pore over wine merchants' lists, or trudge round the High Street shelves, the IEC Wine Society has devised a Wine Without Fuss scheme. Members of the society will be sent a case of wine three times a year selected by the society's buyers with an option of choosing an all red, all white or a mixed selection each time.

The Wine Society at Gunnel Wood Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, will take note of seasonal preferences and bargain boys when they make their selections, none of which will exceed £48 a case, and payment will be made by direct debit.

Jane MacQuitty

THE TIMES COOK

Potluck from the pantry

When Frances Bissell began a spot of spring cleaning and stocktaking in her kitchen larder, she found a few surprises among her souvenirs

DIANA LEADSBETTER



The door had just fallen off my store cupboard and a spring-cleaning seemed like a good idea. As someone who swears by fresh food and boasts of having no freezer, I was somewhat surprised to see the number of tins and jars there. A closer look revealed one or two real jokers, and it occurred to me that our food cupboards probably say a lot about us.

We call it "Hoarder's corner". It is a little bit like a photograph album. Take the shelf with the grits, the blue corn and the wild rice: that was a visit from some Californian friends last year.

The flower mushrooms, "Ti kuan yin" tea and the seaweed came from one of our trips to Hong Kong. From Italy came the capers and the olives. From Gozo, the sun-dried tomatoes. Lisbon provided the smoked sardines. And from France, the packets of dried mushrooms and herb teas.

And what are all those small jars? They contain pink peppercorns. Do you remember pink peppercorns? They were in fashion some years ago until there was a rumour that they were bad for you and were going to be withdrawn from the market. But I stocked up.

In the same week recently, in two of London's gastronomic high spots, I ate marvellous marinated salmon garnished with crushed pink peppercorns and a truly brilliant game terrine with pink peppercorns.

There are, of course, the innocuous and utterly indispensable tins of Italian tomatoes and French anchovies, plus a couple of tins of chickpeas — a good standby to put in the blender with some garlic, sesame paste, lemon juice and olive oil to make my own hummus. And there are some small tins of asparagus.

I got those as a result of an unexpected overnight stay with friends. Our hostess had to feed us the next day and served us the most delicious "junkfood" imaginable. I give you the recipe below.

I had better own up about the stock cubes. Whenever I can, I make stock from left-over chicken carcasses, vegetables, fish bones and pieces, knuckles of bacon or whatever is available. I do not like the concentrated, artificial and bland flavour of commercial stock cubes. Neither do I like the salt and other additives in them. However,

someone once told me about "La Poule au Pot", a stock tablet made by Maggi for the French market, but occasionally to be found in Britain. It does not contain monosodium glutamate.

Asparagus and prawns on toast
(makes 4 slices)
4 slices bread
1/2 lb/230g tin asparagus spears
1oz/25g softened butter
1 tablespoon mustard
4oz/110g peeled, cooked prawns
1 egg white
3 tablespoons mayonnaise

Toast the bread on one side. Drain the asparagus spears. Mix

the butter and mustard, and spread on the untoasted side. Arrange the asparagus on the same side and the prawns on top. Whisk the egg white and fold it into the mayonnaise. Heat the grill, but put the pan on a lower shelf as if you were making toast. Grill the toast until the topping is just turning golden brown.

LIKE me, you have probably got a drawerful of herbs, spices, nuts, and fruit. Use them in the very fragrant dish that follows. It is marvellous for putting in a slow oven and forgetting about while you go to the cinema. The oven does not need to be pre-heated, so you can even cook this on an automatic timer.

Rabbit and saffron rice
(serves 4)
pinch of saffron threads or 1/4 teaspoon powdered saffron
1 large mild onion
1 large rabbit, jointed (use the hindlegs, shoulders and saddle, cut into 3 or 4 pieces)
2 tablespoons sultanas or chopped dried apricots
2 tablespoons blanched almonds or pine nuts
1/2 lb/230g Patna or Basmati rice
2 inch cinnamon stick
2 bay leaves
1 pint/600 ml chicken, rabbit, veal or vegetable stock
Soak the saffron threads in a couple of tablespoons of boiling water. Peel and slice the onion and

place in the bottom of the casserole. Put the rabbit pieces on top together with the sultanas and nuts. Add the saffron and liquid in which it soaked. Tuck the cinnamon stick and bay leaves well down into the casserole and pour in the stock. Cover and place in the bottom half of the oven, and bake at gas mark 2, 150°C/300°F for 3 to 3 1/2 hours. After 2 hours pour the rice in, shaking it well down in the casserole.

MY next recipe serves 4 as an accompaniment to a main course and serves 2 as a main course. You can make this with fresh mushrooms, but I think it is much better made with the concentrated rich flavour of dried mushrooms. You

can use one variety or mix them as you wish. They must be well soaked before cooking. I recommend pouring plenty of boiling water over them and leaving for an hour at least. Chinese flower mushrooms take longer and I would poach them for an hour after an hour's soaking. Tinned or bottled wild mushrooms can, of course, be used with no preparation.

Mushrooms and potato pie
1/2 lb/230g mushrooms, ready to use
1 1/2 to 2 lbs/450g to 675g potatoes
3oz/80g butter
salt, pepper
1/4 pint/140 ml stock, milk or single cream

Cut the mushrooms into small pieces. Peel and slice the potatoes as thinly as possible. Layer the potatoes and mushrooms, dotting with butter and seasoning each layer of potatoes. Pour on the liquid, cover with foil, and bake in a moderate oven, gas mark 4, 180°C/350°F for about an hour or less if the potatoes are water thin and more if they are more chunky. Extras, such as ham, cheese, etc., can be added, but I think it is a pity to interfere with these two good earthy flavours.

THIS last recipe, for Toffee cake, is for people with a really sweet tooth. Once upon a time I thought this was a unique recipe. Then I discovered gradually that everyone has a recipe for it, scribbled on a faded scrap of paper, tucked in a drawer somewhere or in an old recipe book. So here it is again to save you the bother of hunting out your own recipe.

Toffee cake
(shortbread base)
4oz/110g butter
2oz/60g sugar
6oz/175g flour
(toffee)
2 tablespoons light treacle
1 small tin condensed milk
5oz/150g dessert chocolate

For the shortbread base, cream the butter and sugar, and beat in the flour. Then press on tray. Cook at 200°C/400°F for 12 minutes.

For the toffee, boil all the ingredients, stirring all the time for 7 minutes precisely. Spread over shortcake, cool and cover with melted chocolate. Mark into squares or fingers before the chocolate has hardened.

EATING OUT

A taste of France — Japanese style

Jonathan Meades samples the food of three oriental chefs — one of whom is the top man in a very French restaurant

FRANCIS MOSLEY



possessed the texture of yogurt.

A *forestiere* sauce with a steak bore a close resemblance to the usual sauce of that name, though the oyster mushrooms with it tasted as though they had been sprinkled with garlic salt. The cheeses here are well made — the latter include some natural fruit jellies. The wine list is impressive and I spotted quite a few bargains, notably a delicious red Bandol at £10. With a bottle of that, two aperitifs and a glass of house wine (try it at your peril), the bill for two was £63.

For another duck cooked by a Japanese hand I went to Yumi in the Japanese restaurant ghetto of Baker Street. This bird is rarely to be found on Japanese menus — this may be because they haven't, apparently, much idea of what to do with it. That, anyway, is the impression I got from the fat and enthusiastically overcooked breast served up with an indifferent soy-based sauce and undercooked shredded vegetables.

Otherwise there is not much wrong with the place save that

"The more formal Japanese manner of presentation was borrowed by the first generation of nouvelle cuisine chefs and ineptly copied around the world"

it is grossly overpriced and that it compounds its greediness by adding VAT to the bill. Thus a light lunch with no alcohol came to £29.90 before service.

As well as the duck I had a small portion of sashimi and salmon roe, and a bowl of miso soup. It was all unexceptionable — but there was nothing about it which warranted such prices.

Umeno-Ya is a vastly different proposition. It is situated in a stretch of the Finchley Road which is littered with fast food outlets and (to judge by their doorways) rather scruffy nightclubs.

one comes as something of a shock.

The walls are hung with lubricious looking masks with long, distended noses — the forebears, perhaps, of Venetian carnival masks.

There is also a hundred-weight of kitsch scattered about the place: a stuffed animal (some sort of fox?) wearing a sombrero and a tartan scarf and looking for all the world like a Scottish football supporter who missed the plane home and stayed on in this or that banana republic.

There are also swords, lanterns, dolls, a pop up postcard of Kobe City and paper doilies. It is rather hearteningly makeshift and cabé-like.

The cooking is splendid and, while not so deter-

minedly rustic as that at, say, Ikkyu in Tottenham Court Road, it does have a down-home feel to it. Flavours tend to be more assertive than is the norm and portions are larger. Along with this it is most reasonably priced.

Two of us paid £33 and ate sweetish omelette with ginger flavoured pickles; cold boiled Chinese leaves with flaked, dried tuna and soy sauce; succulent chicken yakitori with leeks; exceptionally fine tempura of aubergine, squash, carrot, prawn etc; potentially flavoured miso soup; sashimi; very salt and very crisp skinned grilled mackerel; beef teriyaki in a garlicky sauce, and exquisitely sculpted fruit.

The tea we drank was free — otherwise there's the usual range of beers, sake and whisky.

The other customers when we arrived were all Japanese. Later two groups of men from the Midlands and Sheffield arrived, evident devotees of this sort of cooking who had heard of the restaurant's excellence.

They were not disappointed. Neither was I.

Les Fauves: 24 Queenstown Road, London SW8 (720 5199) 12.30-2.30pm and 7.15-11pm Tues to Sat. Closed Sun and Mon.

Yumi: 110 George Street, London W1 (935 8320) noon-3pm and 6-11.30pm Mon to Fri; 6-11.30pm Sat. Closed Sat lunch and Sun.

Umeno-Ya: 253 Finchley Road, London NW3 (435 8602) 6-10.30pm Wed to Mon. Closed lunchtimes and Tuesday night.



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Ch d'Yquem	1976	£280 pc

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SHOPPING

[illegible]

OUT AND ABOUT

OUTINGS

Steam games

SEVENTH NATIONAL STEAMBOAT SHOW: Family weekend with a great show of steam-powered launches, boats and ancillary equipment. Also an auction of steamboats and related material at 2pm today. Viewing this morning. Kew Bridge Steam Museum, Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middlesex (01-568 4757). Today, tomorrow 10am-5pm. Adult, £1.70. Child, 80p.

LIVING HISTORY SESSION: Another opportunity for families to take part in this successful re-creation of a day in the life of a 17th-century soldier and his family. National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 (01-730 0717). Tomorrow 2pm-5.30pm. Free.

MARKET OPENING: Launch-day for a new open-air market run on the same lines as, and by the same team that operates, Camden Lock. Gabriel's Wharf Market, 56 Upper Ground, London SE1 (01-620 1515). Today, tomorrow and subsequent Saturdays and Sundays 9.30am-5pm. Free.

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION EXHIBITION AND SEMINAR: Of interest to anyone either considering independent education or already in the system. There is a continuous seminar programme throughout the weekend with topics such as "Which School, Which Career?" and "University Application and Entrance Procedures." Kensington Town Hall, Horton Street, Kensington, London (01-837 5464). Today 10am-6pm, tomorrow 10am-4pm. Adults, £2. Students, £1. Accompanied child free.

LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST EVENTS: Tomorrow in Lewisham, "Spring Flowers and Frogspawn." West Devonshire Road Nature Reserve 10am. Further information Bill Galbally (01-408 6394). Tomorrow in Sutton, a workshop at St Philomena's Pond. Meet pond entrance from Short Road, Carshalton, Bring lunch. Sue Stevens (01-669 1108).

ANTIQUE AND COLLECTORS FAIR: 65 stands selling a wide range of antiques. Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare, Avon. Further information (0934-33596). Today 9.30am-4pm. Adult, 40p. Accompanied child, free.

Judy Froshaug

A pauper's palace



Seaman's mission of mercy: Thomas Coram, whose statue now sits outside the foundation, overlooks the magnificent court room packed with famous paintings and other art treasures

Nigel Andrew on the home where great riches and the deepest poverty lived side by side

Large dunghills stood between Rotherhithe and the City of London in the 18th century. Here, unmarried and deserted mothers, in their desperation, would leave their babies to die. Nobody took much notice, though the essayist Addison had drawn attention to the scandal as early as 1713. It was left to a retired sea captain, Thomas Coram, who had settled in Rotherhithe, to do something about it.

What he did, in the face of great difficulties and even opposition on "moral" grounds, was to establish the Foundling Hospital, where a limited number of those unwanted babies could be taken in. They were sent to foster parents for their first four or five years before returning to the hospital to be raised communally and "prepared for society".

The hospital took its Royal Charter in 1739, but by 1742 Coram, sadly estranged from his own creation and growing increasingly "difficult", had been voted off the general committee. Ten years later the hospital buildings were completed (in what is still Coram's Fields), but financial diffi-

culties grew and government help had to be sought. The help came with strings attached: the hospital was forced to accept all children below first two months, then one year of age. An "all-comers basket" was hung at the gate, and mothers had only to lay their baby in it, ring the bell and depart. Fortunately this disastrous policy, which led to a death rate above two in three, did not last long, and the hospital was able to continue its good work until well into this century.

Today the Thomas Coram Foundation operates purely as a fostering agency and as an important centre for childcare work.

Coram's original project was remarkable enough in itself, but its most extraor-

inary feature was that, from the first, he secured the involvement of many of the leading artists and musicians of the day. The paintings in the picture gallery and the concerts in the chapel would not only offer creative opportunities, but would attract interest and patronage, raise money and ensure the hospital's place in polite society.

This brilliant scheme worked. William Hogarth painted for the hospital (and he and his wife fostered for it) and roped in friends and colleagues.

The gallery opened the eyes of many to the possibilities of public exhibition, and indirectly contributed to the founding of the Royal Academy. Musically, the great triumph was the involvement of Handel, who raised the then colossal sum of £7,000 with a series of concerts, including performances of *Messiah* and his *Foundling Hospital Anthem, Blessed are the Poor*.

You can still see some of Handel's scores at the Coram Foundation, among many other treasures. The foundation is now housed in an undistinguished 1930s build-



Undistinguished: but the facade hides the opulence inside

ing, but inside much has been recreated. The great oak staircase is the very one on which an unfortunate boy slid down the bannisters to his death in 1773. And upstairs are the reconstructed court room and the picture gallery.

Paintings form the bulk of the treasures. There are major works by Hogarth, including

his great portrait of Coram, fine Italian paintings — among them a huge cartoon from the Raphael studio — and many fitting religious works like Benjamin West's "And Jesus Called a Child Unto Him", which was the Chapel altarpiece. But it is the combined effect that impresses rather than the individual pictures.

The court room especially is a tour de force with its four great canvases separated by a dozen roundels showing views of the London hospitals (one of them by Gainsborough), all fitting into a perfect unified scheme. The walls are a rich red, decorated with ornate plaster and gilt mouldings.

It is a stunningly beautiful room, and it is hard to imagine that in these surroundings the grim lotteries were conducted (with white, red and black balls) that decided which foundlings were to be taken in and which rejected.

Amid the splendour is a display to break your heart — a collection of dozen upon dozen of the trinkets and tokens found on the babies taken in during the hospital's early years. There are old coins and charms, little mother-of-pearl shapes, beads and tiny bracelets, keys, rings, glass "jewels". Each one is a little obscure tragedy. These too, surely, are treasures of the Foundling Hospital.

The Thomas Coram Foundation, 40 Brunswick Square, WC1 is open Mon-Fri 10-4. Closed weekends and public holidays. Telephone to check the rooms are not in use (01-278 2424). Admission 50p, child 25p.

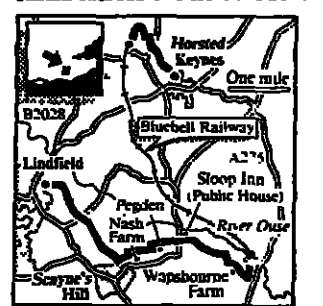
Crossing the tracks

SUSSEX Lindfield and the Bluebell Railway 7½ miles walking and 4½ miles railway trip

The picture postcard town of Lindfield in Sussex, a mile from Haywards Heath station, has a High Street of great quality with a pond at the south end and the church at the other.

Leave the village through the churchyard, heading south, south-east and out on to a fenced path. Turn left down a green lane and at Hangman's Acre right on to a concrete road heading east of south. Cross a road, through Nether Walstead and into Costells Wood.

Soon the track forks either side of the timber-framed Costells. Either fork leads to Scayne's Hill common. Turn left and where the road bears right the footpath leads north-east before bearing east past Nash Farm, a weatherboarded house with a massive brick stack. Across the fields a stile

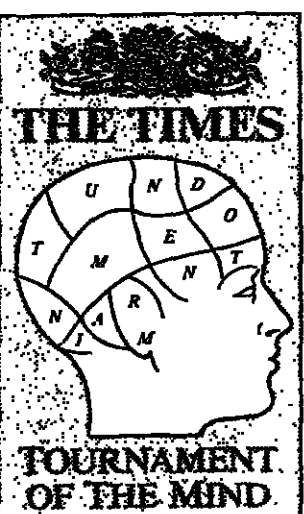


is reached where you turn left on to a sunken lane. Past Pegden, the path soon reaches the road near the Sloop Inn.

South of the Inn, turn east to follow the winding path through Wapsbourne Woods, eventually turning left near Wapsbourne Farm, three storeys of towering timber-framing and barns, all roofed in stone slates. The track leads to the road near Sheffield Park Station, the southern terminus of the famous Bluebell Line. Here you can buy a ticket and travel north-west to the other terminus at Horsted Keynes, hauled by a steam locomotive.

Leaving Horsted Keynes station, head north-east to pick up the footpath to the village, heading south-east, then right on to a road and quickly left back on to the footpath that skirts the ponds. Follow the path left up the hill to Horsted Keynes parish church and the village.

Tournament of the Mind



● Today the tournament enters Round Eleven and thus the second half of the contest.

● The questions, set by Mensa over 20 days, are designed to challenge the brightest minds. They are becoming increasingly difficult as the tournament continues, testing numeracy, logic, word power, and general knowledge.

● For the outright individual winner there is a £5,000 cash prize, and for the winning team in the schools' section an IBM Personal System/2 Model 30 computer.

● At the end of the 20 days the top 10 schools and 100 individual highest scorers will be invited to join the finals, which will take the form of questions appearing in *The Times* over the course of a week.

● Round Twelve will appear in *The Times* on Monday.

ROUND ELEVEN — QUESTIONS

Try all the questions — remember it's the top scores that count

1 LOGIC Score 8

Can you read the following message written in code? To help you, the message is a well known quotation. All the original vowels, however, have been replaced with asterisks. Here is the message:

* S*E* M*G*S*MT G* W*XO*Y* Y*G N8 T*M**H

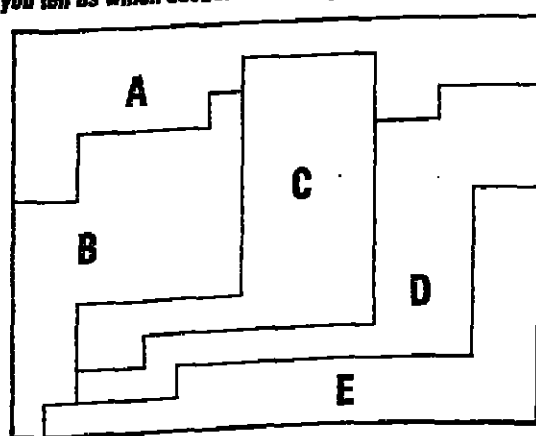
2 VERBAL Score 10

Can you solve this riddle?

My first is in Bacon but not in Egg,
My second is in Pray but not in Beg,
My third is in Apple and also in Peach,
My fourth is in Train but never in Teach,
My fifth is in Black but not in White,
My sixth is in Rifle but not in Sight,
My seventh is in Leaf and also in Stem,
My whole, to a few, is an essential item.

3 MATHS Score 8

Look at this diagram which has been divided up into sections. Can you tell us which section is the largest in area?

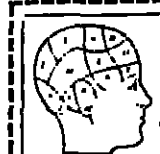


4 MISCELLANEOUS Score 8

Robin Hood decided that he would give every seventh male in a town 42 gold crowns and every sixth female 36 gold crowns. If he gave away a total of 12,000 gold crowns how many people lived in the town?

5 GENERAL KNOWLEDGE Score 2,4,3,4,3

1. What are young elephants called?
2. Which is the longest river in Eire?
3. In which craft might you find "Herring Bone" and "Lazy Daisy"?
4. Who, in opera, was the Knight who sought the Holy Grail?
5. What can be known as aqua fortis?



ROUND 11 — ANSWERS

Cut out your answers and keep this coupon until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons printed in *The Times*

PUZZLES

Answer 1 Answer 2

Answer 3 Answer 4

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Answer 1 Answer 2

Answer 3 Answer 4

Answer 5 Answer 6

NAME

GARDENING

Fashion flowers to order

The primula family is happily promiscuous, as gardeners who grow several species in proximity quickly find out. Interesting forms and hybrids have been collected and cherished for at least four centuries.

The native primrose and cowslip cross (which commonly occurs) has produced a plant with a cluster of primrose flowers from a central stem, typical of the garden polyanthus. Less usual is one I found in my own garden, an exciting hybrid between primrose and oxlip, which has small oxlip-size flowers in a cushion set against neat foliage, like an old-fashioned posy.

This is tame stuff to the serious primula growers, whose hybridizing secrets are fiercely guarded. At By-pass Nurseries of Marks Tey, near Colchester, they raise primrose plants from approved parents to produce first generation hybrid seed for major primula seed merchants all over Europe.

Visiting their glass houses, I expected to see mainly forms of the brightly coloured Pacific Strain hybrids, the garden polyanthus, with flowers so large they make the plant look top heavy. Instead, there were compartments of primulas of every possible type to suit all shades of taste.

Breeders and seed firms have to be ahead of fashion — which, it turns out, differs from country to country. Germans tend towards dark colourations such as strong magentas or deep oranges; the French like colours which tone with each other, while the British have, up until now, raced for the brightest colours. A glimpse into the future shows a movement towards pastel colours and, after a century of obscurity, a revival for the gold-faced varieties.

One section of the nursery was given over to a trial of small-flowered primulas of a variety of body colours and lacings, some pastel and light, some smudgy crimson on cream, others dark hues. I thought these Asteroid types were a charming modern development, their colours twinkling against the mid-green leaves, but the quantity of flowers presented a laborious task for the staff. All the pollination is done by hand and two skilled women had only made their way a few feet along the row during the whole of the morning.

Francesca Greenoak visits a nursery where they raise plants to suit all shades of taste for export all over Europe

CLARE ROBERTS



As the pollen ripens, the staff work along the banks of flowers, transferring pollen to stigmas with small paint brushes. The process is repeated until all the female flowers are fertilized, sometimes using the secondary sexual organs of the flower, which are concealed inside the petal tube, to get a set. With small-flowered forms, this entails gently pulling the bloom apart to reveal the vital part. It is interesting to experiment for oneself and several good primula forms have been raised originally by amateurs.

A hybrid strain in fashionable pastels, called Dreamers, has already proved popular in shops and garden centres. These come in pinks, creams and lilacs with some almost auricle-like darker shades, all with a pink-rimmed gold centre.

If you want to see the results and watch the process of raising, pollination and seed-collecting, visit By-pass Nurseries Primrose Festival this weekend at Marks Tey (which is 4 miles south-west of Colchester on the A12). Plants will be on sale. Entry costs 50p per person — proceeds will go to four named charities.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Divide snowdrops after they finish flowering to increase stock.
- Prepare seed beds ready for early sowings, weed thoroughly, firm the soil, rake to an even tilth and cover to protect from cats.
- Take cuttings from chrysanthemum stools as soon as they begin to shoot.
- Cut back willows with coloured stems (*Salix alba*) taking them down to ground level or to within two buds of previous year's growth.
- Sow (in trays in greenhouse or frame) hardy annuals such as larkspur, love-in-a-mist, and Shirley poppies to fill in gaps in borders.

NEWSLINES

- The *Which?* Guide to *Successful Propagation* is a helpful guide to raising a huge range of plants by seeds and cuttings, well worth buying as the growing season gets under way. It is available from bookshops or from the Subscription Department, Consumers' Association, PO Box 44, Hertford, SG14 1SH.
- A thermostatically-controlled propagator is especially useful at this time of year for seeds which need an even temperature to germinate. Good value is the Humex Twin-Top PR31 which gives a growing area of 1.9 square foot and a temperature range of 7-30°C (45-85°F). Complete with ventilated, high, clear plastic tops, two standard seed trays and eight quarter-size trays, it costs about £39.95.
- For details, free booklet and the nearest stockists of the weed suppressing polypropylene weeding called Plantex, telephone 0536 724777. Mail order is available; it costs £12.50 per 150 sq ft roll.
- There have been many requests for the address of Civic Trees (who transplant large trees). It is 102 High Street, Tring, Hertfordshire (044 282 5401).

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THE ARTS

Disaster's fatal glamour

Incident is an addiction in the news media which produces short memories, narrow perspectives and a fatal vulnerability to emotion. *Aftermath* (ITV) was about the trauma inflicted by a major disaster, and it focused on the sinking of the Herald of Free Enterprise.

There was no doubt of the sincerity with which the programme was made and the care which had been taken to tread the fine line between ghastly prurience and worthwhile inquiry. The people who talked of their grief, guilt and anger were for the most part restrained.

TELEVISION

Throughout the programme statistics were offered with little adornment as a measure of suffering. One hundred and ninety three people died in the tragedy, but 800 have contacted the assistance unit set up by the Dover Social Services. Some 200 officers of the Dover police, whose duties included witnessing the post mortems on behalf of the coroner, have needed psychiatric support.

Survivors and helpers alike shared the experience of severe, prolonged emotional disturbance after the disaster. This was related to similar phenomena observed after the Bradford football stadium fire in 1985, and the Falklands War. There, however, the comparison ended; these experiences were not related to individual grief sustained in the normal course of life, or to the trauma of other, earlier or more distant wars. The fatal glamour of the incident itself narrowed the programme makers' view.

Glamour rarely seduces Jana Bokova, a director noted for her unstructured adventures in naturalistic documentary. Her interest is always with tawdriness rather than perfect beauty, with mediocre achievement and the poetry of mundane lives. You either hate this approach or love it. Her film for *Arena* (BBC2), the first of a two-part journey through Andalucia in pursuit of flamenco, concentrated on the singing and dancing of amateur artists who nevertheless sustained an inspirational sense of tradition.

Celia Brayfield

Throwing off our inhibitions

In the last 20 years some English novelists have thrown off national inhibitions and turned to a bravura style. The writer may be a showman but he is not a performer, argues Graham Swift, whose new novel is published next week

In my country "exhibitionism" is almost a dirty word; it is certainly a derogatory one. In England "to make an exhibition of yourself" means to make a fool of yourself, and there is nothing the English fear more than making fools of themselves. It is a fear that goes with a profound distrust of "show", an even profounder distrust of "showing off".

This is not because the English are essentially humble. Far from it. The reason they will give for their distrust of show—whether they are berating the Americans for their "brashness" or the Italians for their "excitability"—is that show somehow denotes shallowness, superficiality, immaturity: a fine argument, which compounds fear of spontaneity with the vice of intellectual conceit. The famous English "reserve" is really a dubious blend of arrogance and timidity. If we are to think only of England, perhaps it is best to drop the word "exhibitionism" altogether and raise the opposite idea: the very hallmark of Englishness is *inhibition*.

How have the English dealt with their chronic inhibition? By and large, very cleverly and successfully. They have developed to a fine pitch the protective but cutting art of irony. They have become expert at self-effacing if fastidious social observation. They have elevated aloof detachment not only as a personal but often as a national principle. But they have never actually got away from inhibition. The exhibitionists of English literature either forsook England like Byron, or, like Dickens, they made an exhibition of inhibition. Dickens's showmanly verve as a writer only complements his repeated exposure of that characteristically English malaise, the suppression of the emotions.

Yet it would be unfair—and only an example of typically English exclusiveness—to see the English as holding a monopoly in inhibition. Inhibition is universal. And I am not so sure that, at bottom, inhibition, or rather its deliverance, isn't in fact the mainspring of literature. Literature voices things which cannot be voiced, or are seldom

voiced, elsewhere. It is the confessional of society. Since the days of Sophocles it has been peculiarly concerned with the uttering and breaking of taboos; and since the days of Sophocles it has been repeatedly visited by the repression it seeks to absolve. Censorship obstructs it, but also inspires it.

But to return to England. In recent years, it seems, English writing (and I am thinking particularly of English fiction) has become less "English" and less inhibited. Quite apart from the fact that a number of the new generation of English novelists were born outside England, the English have, in the last 15 years or so, opened their eyes—or at least their reading eyes—to influences from abroad.

I can remember, as a bare novice of a writer, first reading in translation the writing of Borges and feeling not only that his work was a revelation in itself, but how utterly unlike, how utterly alien it was to anything being produced in my own country. I can remember undergoing a phase of thinking, quite desperately, that if it was foreign it must be good, if it was English it must be bad.

Some while after reading Borges I read Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and was once again awestruck. I am sure I was not the only apprentice writer in England to read these authors and feel somehow silly for being English. Though there is an irony here: Borges was a passionate Anglophile; he adored Chesterton and Wells. Perhaps he always felt silly for being Latin American.

Borges and Marquez are patently exhibitionist writers. They are shown with words, images, ideas. So too, I think—even though he classically depicts the enclosed self locked in insoluble monologue—is Beckett. There is always in Beckett's work, no matter how bleak it gets, some faint suggestion of that archetypal if lonely performer, the stand-up comic. Now the English, famed as they are not only for their reserve but for their sense of humour, have not, in



The author Graham Swift: Literature is the confessional of society

recent times, produced brilliant stand-up comics. The Americans are much better at it. And during the Sixties, when I first read Borges, it used often to be said that the future of the English novel lay in America.

Much has changed in 20 years. There are now new literary voices in America, but earlier this decade one might well have said that the fresh blood in English fiction was all on this side of the Atlantic. It is a curious thing, but in the liberated Sixties when, on the face of it, so much inhibition was being jettisoned and the catch-word was "permissiveness", the English novel went through a peculiarly dull, conservative phase; whereas in the Eighties, while England has suffered a climate of increasing political reaction, it seems to have lost its shyness. Recent novels such as Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*, Barnes's *Flaubert's Parrot* or Ackroyd's *Hawksmoor* are plainly bravura, exhibitionist work. They are certainly not muted ironical structures or self-effacing studies in social observation.

Four years after it was first published, it seems to me that one of the themes of my novel *Waterland*

was precisely the traditional detachment, introversion and impassiveness of the English. The word I used in the novel was in fact that old Greek word, hallowed by medieval science: *phlegm*. And one of the many and still to me mysterious reasons why I set the novel in the flat, featureless landscape of the Fens may have been deliberately to underscore my doubt, phlegmatic theme.

But I did not want to write a phlegmatic book. I wrote it at a time when I felt my own literary inhibitions dropping away, and I wanted to write something ambitious, adventurous and energetic, where if I erred I would err in the manner of Dickens, on the side of too much colour rather than too little. Perhaps another, quite different reason for that flat East Anglian setting was its attraction as an empty stage. I wanted to perform. I wanted to "show off".

As soon as I say this I falter. And perhaps this is not just my stubborn Englishness. How much, when it comes to it, do I believe that writing is an exhibition, and how much, in my writing, do I want to make an "exhibition of myself"? The key part of that phrase is "of myself". Must any

creative writing be inescapably autobiographical? How much is it the confession, the self-revelation of the author himself, the offering up of his own experience in some more or less sublimated but certainly public form?

Of course, at bottom, there is no getting away from it: all writers are show-offs. We all want the attention of an audience, even if it is a silent and invisible one. And, of course, everything we write, even if we label it fiction, must be, finally, of and from ourselves. It is absolute self-expression—no one can do it but us.

But it is not as simple as that. One often hears offered as indispensable advice to young writers: "Write only about what you know about—write from your experience." I could not agree with anything less. My maxim would be: for God's sake write about what you don't know about! For how else will you bring your imagination into play? How else will you discover or explore anything? And if you stick to your own experience as the only stock of your literary endeavours, what happens when that stock—which must be limited, even if it is interesting to anybody else—runs out?

No, I don't believe in the autobiographical mode of writing—in literary exhibitionism in that sense. I don't believe in it because it seems to me that the fundamental task of literature is to enable us to enter, imaginatively, experiences other than our own. That sounds simple, but it is no small thing. The hardest task in the world, against which consciousness stacks insuperable obstacles, is to understand what it is like to be someone else. But if we cannot even attempt that vital mental act, what hope do we have as the social, political and cultural animals we claim to be?

Readers of *Waterland* have been sometimes surprised, even disappointed, to learn that I do not come from the Fens but from London. The surprise occasionally conveys a note of suspicion: surely, I must come from there—if not, have I not perpetrated some sort of fraud? This reaction overlooks, or certainly underestimates the imagination. Fiction is not fact, but it is not fraud. The imagination has the power of sheer, fictive invention, but it also has the power to carry us to truth, to make us arrive at knowledge we did not possess and even, looked at from a common point of view, thought we had no right to possess.

I confess I don't understand this power and I can't explain it, but I have absolute faith in its existence. It is what for me constitutes the magic of writing, and, I trust, the

magic of reading. A true writer's imagination is always bigger than he is; it outreaches his personality. In that sense I hold a decidedly non-exhibitionist, an almost furtive, behind-the-scenes view of the writer. But should I be careful? I have mentioned the word "magic". Isn't the magician a kind of showman?

It may be a truism for a novelist, but I am passionately committed to the business of narrative—to the narrative in itself, but also to the urgency for its narration, to the bond of imaginative need that ties a narrative to its narrator. Writing is not about showing; it is about telling. Now that I have completed a new novel since *Waterland*, I can see that its central theme is precisely that: the difference between showing and telling. Anyone can present verbal pictures, but in the end you have to think it out, think it through. And though I wouldn't deny for one moment the element of sheer entertainment in writing, I don't think that writers are performers. These days, of course, the media want writers to be performers, and when confronting this demand, authors are compromised at first by the fact that long, solitary hours at a desk ill equip them to meet it. But they are more seriously disturbed by the steady whisper of their conscience which tells them that there is not a performing art. It is an art consumed in that unseen, unshared but incomparable chemistry that occurs between the reader and the page.

My new novel is full of the paradoxes of visual perception. Words like "exhibition", "show", "performance" all suggest an appeal to the eye. There is a legend that Homer was blind. Whether he was or not, the motif of the blind poet surely embodies an abiding truth about literature. I don't suggest that writers should sacrifice their sight for their art—though, indeed, Borges, who saw so much with his mind, was blind. But to seek vision implies something more than mere spectacle; just as to seek wisdom implies something beyond the mere cleverness of performance.

In the end it is folly to speculate on whether writing is or should be an extrovert or introvert process, since the writer has to be, at the same time and all the time, someone who looks out in order to look in and someone who looks in in order to look out.

© Graham Swift 1988

This article has been adapted by the author from an address he gave at the 13th International Writers' Union in Lahli, Finland, last June, shortly after completing his most recent novel, *Out of This World*, which is published on Thursday by Viking (£10.95). The theme of the conference was "Literature and the Future".

Demotion for the hero

Ford's play, almost the last death-rattle of Jacobean tragedy, is far too robust for the decadent label, but it does carry one trademark of decadence—the manipulation of stock elements into perversely novel variations.

'Tis Pity is full of standard Elizabethan dramatic properties: a booby suitor, a masquerading doctor, an invincibly cunning servant—not to mention the central incestuous partnership with its insistent verbal echoes of *Romeo and Juliet*. Most of its elements derive from comedy, and it was Ford who gave them a brief new lease of life by switching them from laughter to horror, so that the booby ends in a pool of blood, the doctor hands out poisons, and—the masterstroke—the servant is not the usual malcontent, but a Spanish man of honour, disdainfully assisting and surveying the bungling Italians from the vantage point of a country that has elevated revenge into an art.

The central question facing any director of this piece in

THEATRE

'Tis Pity She's a Whore

Olivier

where the author's sympathies lie.

Alan Ayckbourn's most conspicuous directorial decision is to demote Giovanni, the lover, from the role of hero. In the last major revival, Ian McKellen showed Giovanni changing from a passionate boy into an unassailable angel of death, stalking into the banquetting room with Annabella's heart impaled on his dagger. No such transformation overtakes Rupert Graves, who begins as he continues, a fresh-faced juvenile, for whom nothing exists outside Annabella's bedroom, and who remains blissfully unaware of the gathering villainy until the last moment; when, it seems, he kills her more from pique than from a

recognition of tragic necessity.

What Mr Graves and Susan Sylvester both convey is the sexual intoxication of the young. For once the spectator can forget about the reprisals to come and observe the loving games of two children who have a delicious secret from the world. Mr Graves as yet is no verse speaker, but he can speak Ford's conversational lines as though he has just thought of them. This capacity deserts him when high rhetoric is required, at which point he becomes shrill and (fatally) starts emphasizing lines with petulant bends from the waist. However, even this scores up an important point: namely that Annabella, not he, has had to suffer the social consequences, and has grown up, leaving him behind.

Miss Sylvester's performance takes you step by step from joy to bewilderment, and marital anguish (singing to herself as the enraged Soranzo knocks her round the bedroom), building all the way to her explosively compressed last line, "Brother unkind",

which, with its double meaning of cruel and unnatural could have been the play's title.

Ayckbourn's production brings back the Olivier's long-abandoned revolve into service. It carries a composite three-level set (by Roger Glossop) of colonnaded balconies, stairways, hidden doorways, and a topmost cupola, all of which slowly glide into position like a macabre carousel. Its potential is wonderfully explored by Mick Hughes's lighting, which is forever uncovering unexpected locales, from the shadowy crypt where Annabella collapses into her remorseful confession, to the brazen facade of the Cardinal's residence where Bergetto's murder posse collides with the ecclesiastical festivities.

As with *A View from the Bridge*, Ayckbourn makes potent use of music: not only Paul Todd's sinister skeletal dances for Hippolita's masque, but distant sounds of music-making that reach the street scenes from inside the great houses.

Atmospherics apart, the great advantage of the revolve is its capacity to articulate dramatic pace and within the first moments of the show, it swings round from Giovanni's confession of love to the duel under Annabella's window; thus instantly identifying her as the honey pot around whom all the gilded flies are buzzing—and, crucially, leaving the comic-tragic option



Echoes of Romeo and Juliet: Rupert Graves and Susan Sylvester

open. As with Romeo and Juliet, the essence of Ford's lovers is that they do not initially see themselves as tragic figures. The comedy that follows, particularly from Russell Dixon's Bergetto—a runaway train, with its boiler about to burst—is hilariously well-timed.

The Soranzo-Hippolita subplot is then introduced with symphonic deliberation (played by Michael Simpkins, with venomous realism and

Irving Wardle

Picking up the pieces

Identity Unknown

Swan, Worcester

where Paterson and his force are unable to identify the dead girl. At the very same time he learns from his estranged wife that their teenage daughter has disappeared from her London Poly. Can those scattered fragments be all that remains of the missing Emma? Paterson goes off to the big smoke to put, so to speak, two and two together.

The wide stage is backed by a rough impasto wall (design by Karen Barlett), on which the imagination can picture a girl's face, and just in front of this stands a panel of six different doors. The scenes that follow each make use of a different one of these.

Iain Rattray's Paterson begins as the sort of cop we know from television, lean and sarcastic. Picking his way down London's murkier slopes, meeting good performances by Karen Henthorn, Kazia Pelka and Mark Strong along the way, he finds a sort of answer among the dossiers. He also experiences a change of heart and finds fulfillment. "Why should I help you?" asks a blind man (touching playing by Maxwell Hutchinson). "Because I need to repair my life," Paterson replies. The distance between this line and the mail train bit I quoted earlier is the distance between free creative flow and straining to reach a target.

Jeremy Kingston

Blue on blues

DANCE

Rhapsody in Blue

Birmingham Rep

George Gershwin proposed his *Rhapsody in Blue* for a ballet, without success, so Anton Dolin was the first to set dancing to it in 1928. On Thursday night Richard Alston staged the music afresh for Rambert Dance Company, using the composer's original version for solo piano and adding three preludes, one as overture, two to introduce the dancers and, almost more important, their clothes.

This is, you see, another example of the recent vogue for ballets clothed by dress designers. For the most, Victor Edelstein could hardly go wrong with white tie and tails.

But although his props with their ankle-length, layered chiffon skirts will undoubtedly please many people, I think that a theatre designer would have avoided making them all in the same shade of blue. The variation of detail in the glittering trim above the bust and around the hips proves too little to differentiate them.

Nor is there enough variety in Alston's choreography; certainly not enough to match the music's flow of invention. It is pleasant in a mild way but not very individual. Much of it is



Resuited: Michael Hodges

set for three couples, who swoon and sweep prettily enough but, all wearing heeled shoes, sometimes looked flustered by the faster passages in a way that Christopher Swinbank's piano playing never does.

As if aware of this danger, Alston also uses a man and two women all in dinner jackets, whose less formal attire lets them move more nimbly. But they look as unrelated to the rest dance-wise as sartorially. It is almost as if two separate ballets are taking place simultaneously.

Perhaps only Astaire, with his gift for starting every dance with a specific concept, could really match this music. Alston seems rather to let Gershwin do most of the work for him; he could hardly have hoped for a stronger partner.

John Percival

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATION

Best Foreign Film

Nipponese Andran: Riquette, Toland, Piel: Bondi, Rye
in
Karen: Olsen: Clash: Dancer's
Babette's Feast.
From the author of *Out of Africa*
—film by Gabriel Axel



"A flawless adaptation... a good story immaculately told"
Philip French, THE OBSERVER
"A spectacular feast"
Vicente Canales, NEW YORK TIMES
"I heartily recommend"
Derek Malcolm, THE GUARDIAN

Now showing at Lumiere
379 3014 833 0691

HILDEGARD NEIL
IAN LAVENDER
DARYL BACK
as Helen Keller
FROM 9 MARCH
THE MIRACLE WORKER
by William Gibson
with SALLY OSBORN
A REAL TRIUMPH
A STUNNING EVENING OF
HUMOUR AND PASSION
WESTMINSTER THEATRE

When the fragments of a teenage girl are found scattered along a railway line and Detective Inspector Paterson inquires as to the cause of death, back comes the answer from his chirpy sergeant: "450 tons of overnight mail train". It is an example of what the author, Euan Smith, does well: dialogue seasoned with sharp, unexpected humour.

The play begins in a small town in the West Midlands

When whimsy is worthwhile
This Regency tortoiseshell mask and in the shape of a classical dancer is expected to fetch £150-£250.
Sale of Objects of Art
Tuesday, 8th March at 2.00pm
Viewing Sun. afternoon, Mon. to 8.00pm, and Tues. morning.
Serendipitous shoppers will discover many ornamental treasures among the hundreds of lots on offer, including antique lighting fixtures, figures, vases, decorative boxes, urns, gates, fire dogs and what-have-you, from a few pounds to a few hundred.
Jonathan Wedgbury is now accepting entries for our next sale of Objects of Art on Tuesday, 10th May. Call him, or just drop in for a free valuation, without obligation.
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صوت الامل

CHESS

Clash of the giants

This week's game is the one in which Tony Miles, formerly the top board for the English Olympic team, attempted a comeback at a London tournament late last year and was thwarted by grandmaster Murray Chandler.

The notes are based on those in *CHESS* magazine which is under new management having been published and edited by B.H. Wood since the 1930s. Barry Wood has retired as editor, passing on the baton to Paul Lamford.

The transfer is being marked on Sunday March 20 in London with a one-day chess festival at the Barbican Centre, London EC2, running from noon to 7pm. Entry is free and everyone is welcome. Among the attractions will be a 1,000 board North London v South London match, simultaneous displays by Grandmasters, a showing of the film *Dangerous Moves* and a blitz tournament with prizes.

White: Tony Miles; Black: Murray Chandler
Queen's Indian Defence, North London Open Oct/Nov 1987.

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 b5 4 Nc3 Bb4 5 Bg5 Bx7 6 a3 h6 7 Bx7 Bx7 8 Bx7 Bx7 9 Nc2 Nc7 10 Qd2

Preventing... 0-0-0, this was first tried in Salvo-Dohoyan, Irkutsk 1986; 11 e4 is more usual. 12 0-0-0?

Salvo played 12 e4 g5; 13 Bf2 Kf8; 14 Be2 Nh5; 15 0-0 Nf4; 16 Rf1 Rg8; 17 Nf1 and now 17... g4 would have given counterplay instead of the 17... f5? played. It soon becomes clear that committing the King to the Queen's side at this stage is too risky, as

Black can easily open lines there.

12... 0-0 13 Re1 a6 14 Qd2 b5 15 g4 16 Qd4 a5

Having refrained from 15 cxb5 xxb5; 16 Bxb5 Rb8 with good play for the pawn, White now finds himself a pawn down with insufficient counterplay.

19 Rg1 Bc5 20 Nc1 Rb8 21 Bb3 Rb6 22 Bb6 Nc8

The crisis. With 23... Rxb8, White now makes a last effort.

23 Rxb8 Nc7 24 Rg1 Nf8 25 Bf5

Or 25 Rxb7+ (25 Bxg7 Ng6) 25... Kf8 26 Bg5 Rxb1+ followed by a winning Queen check.

27... Rxb6 28 Qd5+

White resigned without waiting for 29... Qe6 and if 30 Qxa8 Qx3+.

Chess costs £17.50 for a year's subscription and can be ordered from Chess, Sutton Coldfield, B73 6AZ.

Raymond Keene

BRIDGE

Close encounter

"Try looking at a drop of rainwater under a microscope," my chemistry master suggested many years ago. How right he was; the result was startling. I was reminded of this when I watched this hand played at rubber bridge.

Love all, North-South 40. Dealer-South

♠ Q76
♥ K1096
♦ A87
♣ K542
N S
♠ K542
♥ Q732
♦ 102
♣ A108
♠ A108
♥ Q732
♦ 102
♣ A108

West led the ♠5 and declarer captured East's ♠Q with the ♠K. Declarer played a diamond, winning the trick with dummy's ♠K when West ducked. He returned the ♠10, playing low from his own hand, losing to West's ♠A. West cashed the Ace of hearts and the defence took their four heart tricks. South found the discards on the hearts inconvenient and, after several uncomfortable pauses, this became the six card ending:

♠ Q7
♥ 10
♦ A8
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REVIEW

In loving memory

PAPERBACKS

Frances Horowitz: *Post, A Symposium*, edited by Brocard Sowell (Aylesford, £8.50)

At long last posterity is removing its dust sheets from the work of Frances Horowitz. What is uncovered is a poetry that shrinks academic criticism to dwarfish appraisals, and reviewers' prose to mere stammered gratitude.

One should just quote "In Painswick Churchyard", for instance, in which the poet watches her young child at play:

*He picnics among tombs
— pours imaginary tea,
a yew tree his kitchen
"You will live with me in my house"*

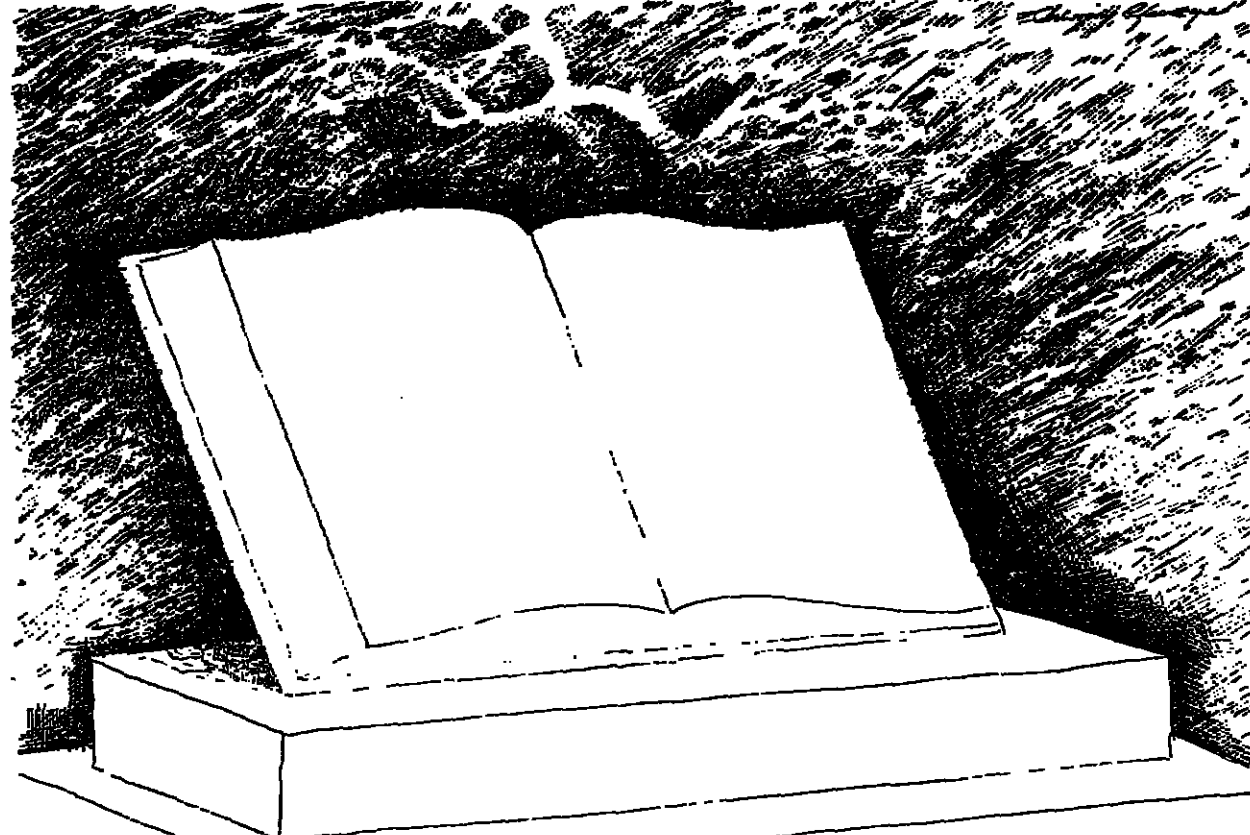
*Oh could I believe the living
and dead
inhabit one house under the sky
and you my child run into
your future
for ever.*

The quality of these poems — several of which are reprinted in this symposium — has to do with rare indefinables: a certain tone, a spindly charm, or what Fleur Adcock, writing about 20th-century women's poetry in general, has called "a kind of sparkle".

But Adcock omitted her from the recent *Faber Book of Twentieth Century Women's Poetry* (despite the fact that Horowitz, born in 1938, was well within the book's cut-off date of 1945) and her *Collected Poems* of 1985 (Bloodaxe) went largely unnoticed. And yet a few of these poems are better than anything published here in the last decade.

Frances Horowitz died in 1983 from cancer of the ear, and this book opens with an account of the frail, stunted nature of her 45 years. She started writing soon after her marriage, in 1964, to the jazz poet Michael Horowitz.

She appears to have spent little time at the flimsy altars of that decade: her poems are untroubled by the seethe of events or by the sub-Ginsberg shrillness of so much writing around her. She was left alone,



NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION
Empire of the Sun, by J.G. Ballard (Grafton, £2.95) Short-listed for Booker, visionary story of English boy growing up in Japanese camp near Shanghai, ending with the Big Bang.
Gerald's Party, by Robert Coover (Penguin, £3.95) Savage, erotic, and funny satire of the queasy affluence of the USA.
Sandmouth People, by Ronald Frame (Sceptre, £3.95) St George's Day in the life of small seaside town in the Fifties.
The Consul at Sunset, by Gerald Hanley (André Deutsch, £4.95) Published 1951, long out of print, British officers trying to keep the peace among feuding tribes in Italian North Africa.
The Green Man, by Kingsley Amis (Penguin, £2.50) Chilling, sprightly ghost story balanced between laughter and fear.

NON-FICTION
A History of Western Philosophy, by D.W. Hamlyn (Pelican, £4.95) Sensible layman's intro to three millenniums of thought.
Gladstone 1809-1874, by H.C.G. Matthew (Oxford, £5.95) The colossus of Victorian politics, with the private drama put beside the public epic of a Victorian soul in torment.
Misrule, by Tam Dalyell (New English Library, £2.95) The charge that Dalyell hammers away at as persistently as a woodpecker is that from Westminster and Belgrave to the Libyan air-raids and *Spycatcher*, government policy has been distorted to bolster the image and personal power of Mrs Thatcher.

The Darkness is Light Enough, by Chris Farris (Sphers, £4.50) Badgers and all that in the field journal of a night naturalist (female, pseudonymously) somewhere in England in Eighties.
The Siege, by Conor Cruise O'Brien (Grafton, £3.95) Epic history of the birth and growth of a nation from the origins of Zionism in Tsarist Russia to the establishment of Israel.

James Wood

The wrong generation

ROCK RECORDS

The Who: *Who's Better — Who's Best* (Polydor WTV1)

Even in an industry not particularly noted for its sense of decorum, the sight of the Who playing, of all songs, "My Generation" to a seated audience of dinner-jackets at the British Photographic Industry awards last month must rank as one of rock music's singular lapses of taste.

Although this was not the first reunion since their overdue retirement in 1962, even Townshend, Daltrey, Entwistle and Jones had not previously achieved such an

'It was about as much fun as dragging Grandma out of her sick bed to remind us how well she used to do the twist'

unadorned juxtaposition of the rebellious mores of youth and the ineluctable truths of growing old. It was about as much fun as dragging Grandma out of her sick bed to remind us how well she used to do the twist.

Hard on the heels of that debacle comes a greatest hits retrospective that similarly



The Who — Townshend, Daltrey, Jones and Entwistle: early hits were musical acid bombs

encapsulates a distinguished history with a hefty sting of mediocrity in its tail.

The early hits are musical acid bombs, uniquely summing up the teenage attitude of the Sixties which compounded swaggering confidence with spluttering frustration: "I Can't Explain", "Anytime Anywhere", "Substitute", "I'm a Boy" and even the mangled "My Generation" are still touched by a magic that has rarely been duplicated in English rock.

Also still sounding fresh are the odd lyrical vignettes and bold, dramatic flourishes that comprise "Happy Jack", "Pictures of Lily", "I Can See For Miles" and "Pinball Wizard".

But by that point "Tommy" and the odious horrors of the rock opera were at hand. "I'm Free" and "See Me, Feel Me" sound twice as dated, marking the moment when, for Townshend, the hard thinking began to overtake the hard rocking.

David Sinclair

Ticket to a romantic ride

JAZZ RECORDS

Loose Tubes: *Open Letter* (Editions EG, EG-ED55)
Clark Tracey Quintet: *Stipertones* (Steam, SJ-115)

There are at least two good reasons for investigating the latest offering from the Loose Tubes chetstra. The first is to be found on the opening track, Django Bates's "Sweet Williams", where a romantic keyboard interlude abruptly transforms a swaggering township riff into a wholly different mood of introspection.

The second, and even more compelling piece of evidence, comes two numbers later, in Steve Berry's "Blue", which is launched on the kind of intricate horn interplay that once characterized Gil Evans's work.

Rounded off by Julian Argüelles's thoughtful so-

prano saxophone solo, it is, I would say, the most intense piece the band has yet recorded.

The rest of the album more or less lives up to that standard, even if the laudable insistence on fair-shares-for-all means that it is rather too eclectic.

Trumpeter Chris Batchelor weighs in with "Suckleback", a rumbustious excursion into African high-life, while flautist Eddie Parker provides a dub reggae composition in "The Last Word" and a polished fusion exercise in "Children's Game", marked by some

distinctive reed voicings. The trombonist John Harborne contributes the most idiosyncratic track in "A", a measured exploration of abstract patterns on the outer fringes of free jazz.

With the veteran American producer Teo Macero taking charge of the sessions, there is a tighter quality to the arrangements than on the two previous albums. There is, too, less of the self-satisfied humour which has marred some of the band's live appearances. Whimsicality is given its head, however, in Bates's "Accepting Suites

From Strangers", which piles joke upon joke at exhausting length.

A "jazz suite" inspired by the Shropshire landscape, *Stipertones* is, in fact, a resolutely American slice of hard bop, and none the worse for that.

With two excellent soloists in trumpeter Guy Barker and saxophonist Jamie Talbot, Clark Tracey's quintet is one of the most invigorating live bands on the British circuit.

The recipe here relies heavily on Horace Silver-style arrangements, but the players break free from the formula in the potent twists and turns of "Devil's Chair". With so many classic Blue Note reissues on the market, though, this album may have difficulty in attracting the audience it deserves.

Clive Davis

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Facing the music

The first Highgate International Music Festival has been abandoned in a blaze of recrimination a month before it was due to open.

It was the brainchild of Orreth Rhoden, a controversial but internationally acclaimed 27-year-old concert pianist discovered four years ago by a BBC producer covering the Queen's visit to Jamaica. Rhoden, who went on to play the Carnegie Hall (not to mention the *John Rivers Show*), had confidently booked musicians from Russia, France, the USA, Trinidad and Jamaica only to discover this week that he has none of the necessary £105,000 sponsorship.

His accusation that the Swiss Bank Corporation rattled on a promise to help is news to their PR man, Geoffrey Evans, who says the greatest encouragement he gave Rhoden was to have lunch with him. Even Rhoden admits he has nothing in writing.

No budding bard

British poets were reeling this week at a surprise Government intervention. John Lee, minister for tourism, took to verse to back film-maker Sam Wanamaker's plan to build a replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on the south bank of the Thames, only 125 yards from the original site.



Prince Philip and John Lee

At a reception at Buckingham Palace, he surprised patrons of the project, the Duke of Edinburgh among them, by delivering his speech in 36 lines of rhyming couplets. Sample:

"The Globe Theatre once of fame
With your help will return again.
Out in Southwark, just off the track
Would doubtless bring the new visitors back.
One hundred and sixty new jobs too
Not a case of *Much Ado*!
Let us hope he does not start a trend."

After an eight week British tour, Kenneth Branagh's Renaissance Theatre Company will set off for Denmark in August. Branagh will play Hamlet (with Sophie Thompson, Emma's sister, as his Ophelia) at Elsinore Castle, which seems to have been used for little else but as a stage for *Hamlet* in recent years. At least there will be no quibbling over the sets.

Where art thou?

New Contemporaries, the annual showcase exhibition for art students and recent graduates, ought to be opening at the ICA this week.

Traditionally put on by a different group of volunteer artists each year, the 1986 show was such an administrative disaster that organizers were left out of pocket and nobody has been persuaded to risk getting their fingers burnt since.

Apparently the feeling now is that art is too important to be left to the artists and the exhibition is likely to return for its 40th anniversary next year supervised by a professional administrator.

Expect some side asides from the cinema chiefs regarding the Government's paltry £30,000 investment in the Euro-funded European Cinema and Television Year, designed to promote Europe as a film centre. I hear that the Trade and Industry department took soundings within the industry and found a marked lack of enthusiasm for such a nebulous project so soon after the successful British Film Year in 1985-6.

Andrew Billen

Quality and quantity

CLASSICAL RECORD

Verdi arias: Carol Vaness/British Concert Orchestra/Penton Nixa/PRT CD Nixc 1.

In the last three or four years Europe, and Britain in particular, have been much taken by the warm, resonant soprano of a Californian lady, Glyndebourne has heard Carol Vaness several times already: her London recital debut will be at the Wigmore Hall in May, her first Salzburg appearance in July, and Covent Garden looks forward to her *Rosalinde* at the end of the year.

This recording, generous in both quality and quantity, shows why she is in such demand. Here, at last, is a Verdian of sure technique, apparently extrovert and fearless personality and considerable musical intelligence. Her voice has the range to encompass "Ritorna vincitor" and "Ernani, Ernani, inviolami" without a single awkward gear change.

Vaness, however, still does not quite taste Verdi's harmonic word-placing, does not quite reach the darkness of the heart of an Elisabetta or a Leonora. If and when she does manage to unlock the further doors she will surely find both the refinement and the sense of expressive perspective of which there are so many hints here.

Hilary Finch

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THE WEEK AHEAD



DANCE

BINTLEY AND BALANCHINE: David Bintley made his first professional ballet 10 years ago, all but a week. A feature of his work has been using new or unexpected music. In *Still Life at the Penguin Café*, his 20th for either Covent Garden or Sadler's Wells, it is an orchestration by Simon Jeffes of pieces written for the eccentric Penguin Café Orchestra. On the same bill, the Royal Ballet's first performance of Balanchine's *Bugaku*, and a revival of his *Serenade*. Royal Opera House (01-240 1066). Wednesday and Thursday.



OPERA

FAMILY AFFAIR: Mirella Freni, veteran of many an Italian and French opera, will be singing her first Covent Garden Tatyana in tonight's revival of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, performing the part in Russian. Her Bulgarian husband, Nicolai Ghiaurov, might have done a little linguistic coaching — he talks the role of Prince Onegin. The other principals are new to the production, as is the Soviet conductor, Mark Ermler. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (01-240 1066). Tonight and Tuesday 7.30pm.



CINEMA

TREAT FOR BERT: Albert Finney plays a drunk but benign gangster in *Orphans* (15), a strongly acted version of Lyle Kessler's play. The orphans are two brothers living in isolated squalor in New Jersey. One of them, the psychotic Trist (Matthew Modine) lures Finney to their ramshackle home, planning to hold him to ransom. But Finney soon takes charge and turns their lives upside down. Kevin Anderson plays the other brother and Alan J Pakula directs. Cannon Haymarket, London W1 (01-833 1527). From Friday.



BOOKS

ROGUE ROYAL: Princess Louise was the sixth child of Queen Victoria and by the standards of her time a notably independent woman. In 1871 she became first daughter of a sovereign since the 15th century to marry a commoner. She was a talented artist and sculptress, who mixed happily in bohemian circles, and she enraged royal opinion by supporting campaigns for the rights of women. *Princess Louise*, a biography by Jehanne Wake drawing on family papers, is published on Monday by Collins (£17.50).



CONCERTS

RUSSIAN LADIES: Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, conducts two orchestras this week, firstly the BBC SO of which he was principal conductor until 1981. In a Russian programme, Augustin Dumay solos in Tchaikovsky's violin concerto. In the second concert the LSO perform the UK premiere of a symphony by Sofia Gubaidulina, and the conductor's wife, pianist Viktoria Postnikova, solos in Schumann's concerto. Barbican (01-628 8795). 7.30pm, tomorrow. Royal Festival Hall (01-928 3191). 7.30pm, Tuesday.



THEATRE

DOUBLE DOROTHY: Dorothy Tutin, rarely out of the West End for long, has roles in both halves of the 1948 Terence Rattigan double-bill which begins a limited London run this week. She is the wife to Paul Eddington's teacher, in *The Browning Version*, while in *Harlequinade* she plays Edna Selby. Other members of the company, directed by Tim Luscombe, include Jean Anderson, John Duttine, Anna Quayle and Jack Watling. Royalty (01-831 0660). Previews from Friday, opening night on March 17.

THEATRE LONDON

CHILD'S PLAY: Bristol Express present the world premiere of Jonathan Woffman's adult comedy, set in Liverpool in the Sixties. New End, Hampstead, NW3 (01-794 0022). Preview Thurs. Opens Fri.

KINDLY KEEP IT COVERED: Terry Scott in the world premiere of a comedy by Dave Freeman, 'saucy but not offensive'. Churchill Theatre, High Street, Bromley, Kent (01-460 6677). Opens Wed.

ON THE RIVER: Age Exchange Theatre's latest touring show, about Londoners' memories of life on the Thames and in docklands. Age Exchange Centre, Blackheath, SE3 (01-318 9105). Tues. Then Mar 14, 15 and 22.

TIME TO GO: Intimate Strangers present the second show in the Home Work 2 season of British performance theatre. About Anton Chekhov and his actress wife. ICA, The Mall, SW1 (01-930 3647). Opens Tues.

A TOUCH OF THE POET: Transfer from the Young Vic for Vanessa Redgrave, Timothy Dalton, with Judi Davies, John McNery, Malcolm Tierney in British premiere production of Eugene O'Neill's play. Limited season. Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (01-930 2578). Previews Tues and Wed. Opens Thurs.

OUT OF TOWN

CAMBRIDGE: Cyrano de Bergerac: Sam Mendes directs Anthony Burgess's translation of the Edmund Rostand classic. Arts Theatre (0223 352000). Preview Mon. Opens Tues.

EDINBURGH: Lout: Hugh Hodgart directs Orton, with Peter Jonfield, Alison Peables. Royal Lyceum (031 229 9997). Free preview Thurs. Opens Fri.

GUILDFORD: Not Later Than Six: British premiere of a French thriller, being toured by Surrey Theatre Link. Yvonne Arnaud Studio (0483 60191). Opens Thurs.

LIVERPOOL: The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists: Stephen Lowe's dramatization of the 1914 novel by Robert Tresselt. Transferring to Theatre Royal, Stratford East. Playhouse (051 709 8363). Previews from Wed. Opens Mar 16.

WINDSOR: Dear Octopus: Patrick Cargill, Joyce Redman and Mary Kettle in a perennially popular comedy. Theatre Royal (0753 853888). Opens Tues.

CONCERTS

SCHUNK'S SHOW: Heinz Schunk conducts the Berlin Chamber Orchestra in an all-Mozart afternoon. Divertimento K 251, Flute Concerto K 314 (Matthias Raut, soloist) and Symphony No 28. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795, cc 01-638 8891). Tomorrow, 3.30pm.

SPANISH EVENING: The famous Spanish soprano Victoria de los Angeles is accompanied by Geoffrey

WORD-WATCHING

RUMBULLION: (n) The fruits are derived from Rumbullion, the town midway between Paris and Chartres. The spirit distilled from sugar-cane is connected with Rome, and by association with Rumbullion, rum also turned to something queer.

CHARRETTE: (n) Burning the midnight oil in the journey of architectural scholars. From the French *charrette*, the cart used to collect the drawings of students attached to the Ecole des Beaux Arts between 1840 and 1930.

CLARICEMBALO: The Italian harpsichord (also *clavicembalo*, and *clavichord*), the substitution of the "r" for the "c" in *clavicembalo* was a copyist's mistake.

JOHNHOUND: (n) Joined up handwriting. Addison in *The Spectator* of 1711: "A little boy told her that he was to go into joinhand on Thursday."

RADIO

SAVED IN THE USA: Tim Grana presents a two-part history of American gospel music from its 18th century roots in English nonconformity and black slavery. Radio 4 LW, tomorrow, 4.02-4.47pm.

PIERS LANE: A fine pianist undertakes a demanding programme with the Bach-Busoni Chaconne, Chopin's Sonata Op 58, Brahms's Handel Variations and Scriabin's rarefied Etudes Op 65. Wigmore Hall, Thurs, 7.30pm.

KING'S BACH: The Choir of King's College, Cambridge, the Baroque Orchestra and many soloists unite under Stephen Cleobury to perform Bach's St John Passion. St John's Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Thurs, 7pm.

BYCHKOV/BAUMANN: Hermann Baumann solos in Mozart's Horn Concerto No 3 with the LPO conducted by Semyon Bychkov. Fore and aft: Hindemith's lively *Symphonic Metamorphosis* on Thomas by Weber and Berlioz's Fantastic Symphony. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800). Fri, 7.30pm.

RARE KORNGOLD: With the LSO under Yuri Achronovitch, Gil Shaham solos in Korngold's Violin Concerto — not a piece that people often hear like playing. First, they are heard in Mozart's Violin Concerto K 218, then in Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 5. Barbican Centre, Fri, 7.45pm.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: *Un ballo in maschera*, conducted by Richard Armstrong, continues its run. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066). Mon and Sat March 12 at 7.30pm.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Tim Albery's important new production of Britten's *Billy Budd* continues on Tuesday. A revival of Ian Judge's *Cav and Pag* with Arthur Davies, Jane Eaglen, and Angela Fennelly and Alan Opie opens on Thursday; *Orpheus in the Underworld* on Wednesday and Friday. All performances start at 7.30pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-636 3161).

GUILDHALL SCHOOL: Bizet's *La fille du Perth* with Howard Williams conducting a student cast. Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 2571). Mon, Wed and Fri, 7pm.

NEW SADLER'S WELLS OPERA: Noel Coward's *Bitter Sweet* continues its London run with Valerie Masterson and Ann Mackay. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (01-278 8916).

DANCE

SPRING LOADED: Two dances from Tel Aviv, Nir Bengali and Liat Dror, make their British debuts (Monday, Tuesday), adding diversity to a week that also includes the American dancer Scott Clark and Suzie Ater (today). Diversions Dance Company from Wales (Wednesday, Thursday) and Phoenix Dance Company from Leeds (Friday).

The Place, Dukes Place, London WC1 (01-367 0031).

RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY: Merce Cunningham's *Septet* (Monday to Wednesday) and Richard Alston's *Rhapsody in Blue* (Thursday to March 12). Haymarket, Leicester (0353 539797).

NORTHERN BALLET: Coppelia today at Theatre Royal, Nottingham (0602 482626); then *Alice in Wonderland* and the LS Lowry ballet *A Simple Man* at the Ambra, Bradford (0274 752000).

PHOTOGRAPHY

HENRY PEACH ROBINSON: Victorian painter turned photographer whose speciality was creating carefully constructed allegorical and idealised tableaux vivants by photomontage. Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (01-638 4141). Until April 24.

BRITONS: Colourful giant Polaroid group portraits by Neal Slavin giving us a rather quirky view of the British. Also a tribute to the portrait photographer, Karsh. National Museum of Film and Photography, Prince's View, Bradford (0274 727488). From today.

JAZZ

LOOSE TUBES: A fortnight's residency marks the launch of the orchestral eccentrics' new album. *Open Letter*. Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (01-439 0747) Mon to Sat.

EBERHARD WEBER: Start of an extensive tour by the German ECM bass virtuoso. Bass Clef, London N1 (01-729 2476) Sun; Zetterli's, Ambleside (05394 33645) Wed; Band on the Wall, Manchester (061 832 6825) Thurs.

PINKI ZOO: Nottingham-based quartet whose 'free-funk jazz' bears the imprint of Ornette Coleman's *Prime Time*. Localmill Theatre, Sheffield (0742 754500) Sun; The Green Room, Manchester (061 236 1676) Tues; Bluecoat Arts Centre, Liverpool (051 709 5297) Wed; Bridgwater Arts Centre (0274 827700) Fri.

THE JUDGES: Hugo Young explores the human face of the law through interviews with six judges, starting with Alan Simpson, who sits in the Crown Court in Sheffield. Radio 4, Wed, 8.45-9.15pm.

EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL: More kitchen sink love songs, from the duo's fourth album, *Idewild*. Loughborough University, Thurs (0509 217766); University of East Anglia, Norwich, Fri (0603 505401).

WALKS

SHAKESPEARE'S LONDON: meet today, St Paul's tube, 11am, £2.25.

HISTORIC PUB WALK: meet today, Green Park tube, 7.30pm, £2.25 (also next Sat).

1660s GREAT PLAQUE AND FIRE: meet tomorrow, Tower Hill tube, 2pm, £2.25.

CITY OF YORK: meet Exhibition Square, 10.15am, free (also next Sat and Sun).

GALLERIES

DENNIS CREFFIELD: Drawings made during 1987 of the writers and stars of a new sitcom set in Roman Britain. Channel 4, Wed, 10-10.30pm.

DAVID BOMBERG (1890-1957): A small show of paintings and drawings complementing the major survey of this artist's work at the Tate Gallery. Fischer Fine Art, London SW1 (01-839 3942). From Tues.

DENIS MASI: Several pieces by an artist who makes bizarre 'environments' and installations, one of which — appropriately on a theme of conflict — is being shown at the Imperial War Museum. Sculpture Gallery, London W2 (01-622 6075). From today.

L. S. LOWRY (1897-1976): A centenary exhibition of 80 paintings and drawings, showing the surprising variety of this popular artist's styles and subjects. City Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke on Trent (0782 202173). From today.

BRUCE LACEY: The latest identity of this former sculptor, recording artist, performer and myth-tale is as a painter whose pictures celebrate the natural world. Birch & Conran Fine Art, London W1 (01-434 1246). From Wed.

TELEVISION

THE MEDIA SHOW: Returns for a new series with items on the current Hollywood treatment of the family and the actors behind the voices on TV commercials. Channel 4, Tues, 9-10pm.

THE PARTY: Kenneth Cranham and Jack Shepherd lead a TV version of Trevor Griffiths's play charting left-wing hopes and dilemmas during the student uprisings of May 1968. BBC1, Tues, 9.30-11.30pm.

FILMS ON TV

ODD MAN OUT (1946): Carol Reed's famous baroque thriller charting the last hours of a wounded gunman (James Mason) in Belfast. BBC2, Tues, 9-10.50pm.

EDDIE MURPHY RAW (19): Eddie Murphy's stand-up comic routines flatly filmed at a live performance by Robert Townsend. Prince Charles (01-437 8181). From Fri.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

CARL DOLMETSCH: Recorder recital includes first performance of new work for recorder, two violins and cello.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Continued from facing page

SATURDAY

BBC1 Wales: As Grandstand except 2.40 Rugby Union live coverage of Ireland v Wales 4.15 Coverage of Scotland v England 6.15 Sports News 6.30-6.45 Invention 1.20am-1.35 News and weather 1.35am-1.45 News 1.45-1.55 Scottish news and sport 1.55-2.00 Sports-come 1.50 Friends 1.55-2.00 Carrot Confidential 2.00-2.15 2.15-2.30 The Down Northern Ireland As Grandstand except 2.30 Amateur boxing 2.40 Rugby Union live coverage of Ireland v Scotland 4.15 Closing stages of Scotland v England 5.15 In-Club News 5.30-5.45 Video Pictures Show 1.30am-1.35 News and weather 1.35am-1.45 News 1.45-1.55 Scottish news and sport 1.55-2.00 Sports-come 1.50 Friends 1.55-2.00 Carrot Confidential 2.00-2.15 2.15-2.30 The Down Northern Ireland As Grandstand except 2.30 Amateur boxing 2.40 Rugby Union live coverage of Ireland v Scotland 4.15 Closing stages of Scotland v England 5.15 In-Club News 5.30-5.45 Video Pictures Show 1.30am-1.35 News and weather 1.35am-1.45 News 1.45-1.55 Scottish news and sport 1.55-2.00 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SATURDAY

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davale

SUNDAY

● In Mr Jolly Lives Next Door (Channel 4, 10.50pm), the latest offering from the comic strip, Rik Mayall and Adrian Edmondson play proprietors of an escort agency who find themselves trying to assassinate Nicholas Parsons. It is a variation on the Cliff Richard/Living Doll gag, exposing a pillar of conventional showbusiness to the reigning monarchs of alternative comedy. Parsons has long been fair game for jokes, but as the Cliff Richard video, this enterprise carries the danger of backfiring. Reduced to its essentials, the humour of Mayall and Edmondson consists of pulling faces, shouting at each other and smashing things.

CHOICE

Nothing is barred in the pursuit of the outrageous. Alternative it might be but subtle it is not. The result (for this viewer, at least) was actually to arouse sympathy for Parsons - which was not, presumably, the intention. It was all done much better, more wittily and more succinctly on the radio by the *I'm Sorry, I Haven't a Clue* team. They needed only two sentences. "First the good news: Nicholas Parsons is retiring. And now the bad news: he is going into showbusiness".

Peter Waymark



Adrian Edmondson and Rik Mayall in the comedy film Mr Jolly Lives Next Door, on Channel 4, at 10.50pm



Paul Bhattacharjee and Stephen Bent in the Screen Two film Lovebirds, on BBC2, at 10.00pm

CHOICE

● Written by Barry Collins and filmed in his native Halifax, *Lovebirds* (BBC2, 10.00pm) is a contemporary tale of race, unemployment, moonlighting and having babies. Weaving these themes together are two couples, one white, the other British Pakistani. While the wives are in the same hospital ward, expecting children, the husbands, workmates who are about to be made redundant, fall out over a missing wallet. In an unflattering view of racial tolerance among the British working class, Collins has the white man leaping to the conclusion that the "black

bastard" is a thief. This is the cue for a car chase through Halifax market and a chain of misunderstandings that dumps the said "black bastard" in the local bin. But the wives chum up in the hospital, and our black friend turns out to be not only smart but also has a rich uncle. Meanwhile, what with babies being stolen from council houses and call-girls plying their trade from the back seat of a Volvo, the unofficial economy thrives. Collins has a sharp ear for the everyday speech of the industrial North and, as a metaphor for 1980s Britain, *Lovebirds* has the ring of truth. But the portrait is not a flattering one.

P.W.

BBC1

- 6.45 Open University.
- 8.25 Saturday Stars Here with Corners (p. 6.40) and the Red Hot Chili Peppers.
- 9.30 Going Live! Includes the fifth heat of the Young Entertainer of the Year competition. 12.12 Weather.
- 12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to change): 12.20, 2.25 and 4.10 Rugby Union: previews and live coverage of the Scotland v England game; highlights of Ireland v Wales; 12.30 Football Focus; 12.50 News; 12.55 Racing from Haydock and Newbury; 2.10 Athletics: the European Indoor Championships from Budapest; 4.00 Football news; 4.40 Final score.
- 5.05 News with Moira Stuart. Weather. 5.15 Regional news/sport.
- 5.20 First Class. Inter-school competition. This week Alderman White from Nottingham meet Keith Grammar from Banffshire.
- 5.45 Jim'll Fix It (Ceefax).
- 6.20 The Little and Large Show. The guests are Fatima Whitbread and Sinitta.
- 6.55 Sorry! Timothy begins to have second thoughts about his marriage to Jennifer (p. Ceefax).
- 7.25 Bob Says Opportunity Knocks. The first of a new series of the talent shows.
- 8.15 Film: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969) starring Paul Newman, Robert Redford and Katherine Ross. Academy awards-winning western about the adventures of a pair of loveable bank robbers. Directed by George Roy Hill. (Ceefax).
- 10.05 News and Sport. With Moira Stuart. Weather. 10.20 The Little and Large Show. With Jasper Carrott.
- 10.55 Film: Cannon (1971) starring William Conrad and Vera Miles. A made-for-television murder mystery in which Frank Cannon, the obese ex-policeman turned private detective, investigates the death of an old friend's husband. Directed by George McCowan.
- 12.30am World Bowls. Highlights of first round matches in the Embassy World Indoor Bowls championship.
- 1.30 Weather.

Radio 1

MW (medium wave). Stereo on FM (see below). News on the half-hour until 12.30pm, then at 2.30, 4.30, 6.30, 8.30 and 10.30. 6.00am Nicky Campbell 6.00 Peter Powell 10.00 Mike Read 4.00pm Adrian Justice 2.00 The Stereo Session. Includes 2.00-3.00 Substance (early work of Joy Division) 4.00-5.00 The American Recordings 6.30-7.30 In Concert (featuring Aztec Camera) 7.30-8.30 Robbie Vincent 10.00-12.00 Mark Goodwin As Radio 1 2.00pm As Radio 1 7.30-4.00am As Radio 2

Radio 2

MW (medium wave). Stereo on FM (see Radio 1). News on the hour until 1.00pm, then at 3.00, 5.00, 7.00 and 9.00. 6.00am Dave Bussey 6.00 Graham Knight 8.00 David Jacobs 9.00 Sounds of the 60s (Ray Charles) 10.00 Anne Robinson 12.00 Gerald Harper 1.00pm The News Huddlines (new series) 1.30 Sport on 2. Includes Rugby in Wales and Racing from Haydock Park 6.00 The Press Gang 6.30 The Seven Ages (John Peel) 7.00 Beat the Record 7.30 The Mountbatten Festival of Music. Recorded in the Royal Albert Hall 8.30 Sir 9.00 News 9.15 Martin Kellner 10.05am Dave Gelly 1.00am Bill Tennells 3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsweek 6.30 London Martin 7.00 News 7.20 Twenty-Four Hours 7.30 News 7.40 News 7.50 News 8.00 News 8.15 A Jolly Good Show 8.30 News 8.45 News 9.00 News 9.15 World Today 9.30 News 9.45 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 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Subsidy

By Debra Hart
 Incubator

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ADT profits leap to £95m as US sales predominate

By Michael Tate

ADT, formerly the Hawley Group until the £400 million US acquisition last August, and where Mr Michael Ashcroft is chairman, made profits of £94.8 million in 1987, an 87 per cent increase on the £50.6 million reported for the previous year.

The figures are translated from dollars, the group's reporting currency now that it is based in Bermuda, and makes 70 per cent of its money in North America.

Group sales have passed \$1 billion (£565 million) for the first time, at \$1.23 billion against \$842 million, and earnings are up by 20 per cent at 25.1 cents a share.

Shareholders are offered a one-for-23 scrip issue by way of a dividend, although they may instead opt for 8.2 cents in cash to supplement the 4.2 cents paid at the interim stage. That is twice as much as last time.



Mr Michael Ashcroft

Mr Ashcroft, once again choosing to announce the figures on his own birthday, says that only \$30 million of the \$72.2 million pretax profit increase came from the group's acquisitions. He added

that the name change will allow it to compete more effectively by marketing all its services under one identity.

Apart from ADT Inc, the leader in the US security market for high-tech central station monitoring, the group also acquired Mr David Wickens' British Car Auctions in April, which contributed just under \$30 million to 1987 profits. But it was still the smallest of the group's three divisions.

Security services, with three months from ADT Inc, made \$38.98 million against \$12.75 million, while maintenance services, which takes in industrial cleaning and hospital housekeeping, improved from \$22.97 million to \$37.47 million.

Mr Ashcroft adds that early indications for the current year are up to expectations in all divisions, and looks forward to continued growth.

See Tempus, below

Mexican auction attracts few bids

The leading Western creditor banks appear to have stayed away from Mexico's debt auction, with only \$3.67 billion (£2.07 billion) out of a total debt of \$105 billion, converted to new 20-year bonds.

Mexico insisted on tough terms at the auction, accepting bids at an average discount of just over 30 per cent. Of its 600 bank creditors, only 139 from 18 countries made bids.

The Mexican ministry of finance exchanged \$3.67 billion of debt for \$2.56 billion of the new bonds, backed by US Treasury paper.

Banking sources said yesterday that the take-up was mainly by the smaller, regional US banks, which are keen to accept the bond offer as a means of extricating themselves from their Mexican debt exposure. The British clearing banks, while granting waivers for the auction, do not appear to have taken part.

The Mexican finance ministry said that 45 per cent of the amount bid was rejected because the bids were outside the minimum discount required.

Mexican officials had previously said the government would set a minimum acceptable discount of 30 per cent. The bids were accepted at an average discount of 30.23 per cent, well below the 50 per cent at which Mexico's foreign debt is quoted in secondary markets. A total of \$6.7 billion in bids were received.

The Mexican scheme had seemed to be the most promising of a long line of proposals to ease Latin America's five-year debt crisis, involving increased debtor-creditor co-operation.

With the bond auction plan, unveiled last December, Mexico planned to issue up to \$10 billion of bonds in exchange for as much as \$20 billion in old debt.

The plan was backed enthusiastically by the US Treasury, but leading banks saw little benefit in bidding for the bonds at anywhere near market values for Mexican debt.

British Aerospace could learn a few new tricks from Rover

The strike at Land-Rover, coming in the wake of Ford, shows that while attitudes may have been modified under the Iron Lady, behaviour patterns within industrial unions have not changed. This message explains in part the City's initial reaction of dismay to the scheme for Rover's sheltered return to the private sector via an acquisition by British Aerospace.



KENNETH FLEET

Second thoughts were more favourable but either the analysts' knowledge of Rover is rusty or the group's image is still coloured more by the Robbo and trade union dictatorship during the 1970s than the quite dramatic transformation wrought in recent years by Graham Day and team of more professional and dedicated managers. They have taught Rover a new range of tricks, prolonged its active life and brought the old dog to the point of genuine and rapidly rising profitability.

The one serious reservation about Rover's finding a home with BAE is that it will find it too comfy and lose the bite it has rediscovered by having to fight to survive. Under short notice (not much more than another year) from Mrs Thatcher to find a way out of the State sector where it has absorbed almost £4 billion of taxpayers' money, Rover had been working on a management buyout as the first stage of a complete return to the market. To succeed, this scheme required the support of banks and institutional shareholders and probably a 15 per cent equity participation by Honda.

The Japanese company's practical skills as a mass car-maker have helped carry Rover through a period where alone it had little to offer car buyers spoiled for choice, but I doubt whether Honda is keen for anything beyond commercial design manufacturing and marketing agreements.

Other options are a takeover by Jaguar (turning the wheel full circle); by another British company; or by a foreign company. Ford's approach before the last election raised Tory hackles, and would again when it was understood that any overseas car manufacturer would be essentially concerned with acquiring manufacturing assets (Longbridge and Cowley are now high-grade plants) at a giveaway price.

A takeover by BAE is ideal for the Government, quick, uncomplicated and British. There are knights in the air for Professor Roland Smith and Mr Day. While there may be arguments in favour of a different solution for Rover, BAE's strategic thinking is eminently sound. Taking over Rover is a similar stroke to the acquisition of Royal Ordnance — an inspired purchase for which BAE has so far received

too little credit. Both Rover and RO are medium-sized manufacturers whose products are engineered and made in similar ways. Together they would provide an industrial base to accommodate BAE's cyclical aerospace business. The future of BAE's civil aircraft business is bound up with Airbus Industrie where it has a 20 per cent involvement, but unlike its French and West German partners BAE cannot rely on heavy government subsidies to sustain its participation at the present level. In the world league dominated by the giant Boeing, BAE is a dwarf.

Given a deal with the Government that would leave Rover with a clean balance sheet and free of debt, BAE could look to Rover for a rising contribution to earnings per share at a time when BAE is coping with the damage to profits of adverse exchange rate movements. The modern reality of Rover goes deeper. It has recognized the need for a more intelligent workforce. Notably as a result of co-operation with the University of Warwick, where the integrated graduate development programme offers the best training of its kind anywhere, Rover has a cadre of scientists and engineers trained to manage at the sharp end where quality is built into vehicles and costs contained. At the manufacturing level Rover is already highly sophisticated. If the deal with Government can be done, and it can be made to work, merging Rover with BAE is the best option, certainly for BAE, and taking everything into consideration, for Rover too.

Positive signs in the property market

It is normally six months before the fallout in the commercial property market from a major catastrophe — in this instance the October stock market collapse — is measurable, but early indications are that demand is strong throughout the country, particularly for quality accommodation. Fast disappearing are the days when a biscuit box was good enough provided it had parking space for the chairman.

The City of London, where rents are just about holding up, remains a sensitive area, not because of the pace of development but because the drive to cut staffs in the financial services industry might lead to smaller offices.

But so far the crash has not caused the waves that were expected to bring serious damp to the City office market. "Stagnant vulnerability" was the term used by one acute observer of the scene, who believes that rents in the Square Mile will come down from their present plateau. Fleet Street and its environs have finally become accepted and respectable, though some doubts cloud Goldman Sachs' interest in the old Daily Telegraph building. Another crash, of course, and all bets are off.

Before the fall in the stock market blew the froth off the property market

and made speculative sites unsaleable, the office market had been driven to giddy heights by companies throwing their own paper at it. Come the crash it became obvious that they had overpaid, but in overvalued shares. Half-a-dozen of these eager and ambitious paper placers were removed from the market almost overnight.

On the previous occasion when lightning struck — in 1973 — it was the secondary banks that were badly hit as they had provided the currency. Also helping to restore the market's equilibrium are moves to rationalize property companies through mergers and acquisitions.

Property companies with liquidity are back buying and there is considerable interest from overseas. Serious money is coming from Japan; and Sweden and Denmark, revelling in deregulation, find the market here attractive.

The British institutions, which are the market's bedrock, seem to have lost none of their enthusiasm. A very good example was this week's purchase from Mountleigh by Norwich Union of the 999-year head lease of Beaufort House, once the proud City office of P&O.

At £200 million it was an exceptional

purchase for a single institution — even one with Norwich Union's deep attachment to property. This was one major event of the week.

The other was the award of the contract, jointly to Sir Robert McAlpine and Ellis Don of Canada, to manage the construction of Europe's tallest office block.

It will be on the Isle of Dogs and the centrepiece of Olympia & York's Canary Wharf development, providing 1.8 million (gross) sq ft of office space on 50 floors. In total Canary Wharf is expected to provide 10 million sq ft of office and shopping space when completed in the mid-1990s.

Canary Wharf, lying outside the bounds of the City, has had problems, but no one now seriously doubts that in the hands of the Reichmann brothers the scheme will be finished.

Their technique (and muscle), applied with consummate success in Battery Park, New York, is to offer prospective tenants an irresistible package that is both simple (by taking old leases they take away rent problems) and cost-saving. It may look like buying tenants but so far it has worked a treat.

Japanese surplus falls 19%

From a Correspondent

Tokyo — Japan recorded a \$4.583 billion (£2.59 billion) trade surplus in January, but the surplus was 19.6 per cent lower than in January 1987, the Ministry of Finance said yesterday.

The current account surplus dropped 27.4 per cent from a year ago to \$3.515 billion.

Based on the latest figures, ministry officials have suggested the overall current account surplus for the 1987 fiscal year could fall below the government projection of an \$82 billion surplus.

The cumulative surplus for January was \$69.2 billion.

Exports in January were up 16.1 per cent from a year earlier to \$17 billion, but the increase was offset by a 38.8 per cent jump in imports.

Broackes wins in yacht dispute

Sir Nigel Broackes, the chairman of Trafalgar House, yesterday won a long-running legal battle with Khalidia Marine Ltd over a disputed agreement for the chartering of his luxury yacht by Mr Adnan Khashoggi, the international businessman.

A High Court judge in London awarded Sir Nigel £109,000 (£61,512) and £44,500 (£24,444) in damages against Khalidia, a company registered in Gibraltar, for breach of contract. The award will almost double with interest accrued since the dispute arose in 1979.

Mr Justice Tudor Evans said Sir Nigel let yachts on charter and was the owner of a newly-built yacht, the Berengaria, which became available for charter from June 1979.

The managing director of Khalidia, in which Mr Khashoggi had a controlling interest, sent a telex on May 16, 1979 relating to the chartering of the vessel for June.

But Mr Khashoggi later decided he did not want the yacht for either June or the following month.

Khalidia argued that the telex did not amount to acceptance of the charter offer and that there was no binding contract.

But the judge rejected the argument and said: "I am satisfied that the managing director had instructions from Mr Khashoggi and as a result he sent the telex."

An earlier action by Sir Nigel for damages for breach of an alleged charter contract in July failed in 1981.

Subsidy threat may change BS plans

By Derek Harris

The threat of shipbuilding subsidies being reduced, now the subject of increasing Whitehall debate, could result in state-owned British Shipbuilders bringing out a new corporate plan by May.

This would allow Mr John Lister, the BS chairman, to field arguments for maintaining subsidies at least at their present level until 1990 when it is expected that shipbuilding demand will start rising strongly.

The Government has been increasingly anxious about losses at BS whose debt now

amounts to £1.3 billion. But Mr Lister has been arguing for subsidy ceilings in EEC, currently between 20 and 28 per cent, to be raised to 30 per cent.

It is argued that European shipbuilders need the subsidies to have any hope of competing with low-cost Far Eastern shipbuilders. At present subsidies are running close to 28 per cent in most of the EEC, including Britain.

BS normally updates its corporate plans annually — usually about mid-year — to take a view of the next three years.

But due to a change in the

chairmanship last year it was not until October that BS put in a less formal strategy document once Mr Lister had made his own assessment of BS's immediate future.

There has been pressure over the high cost of BS to the taxpayer since early last year from Lord Young of Gifford, the Trade and Industry Secretary, and his industry minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke, who described shipbuilding as "a very expensive industry to be in."

Although the Government needs in practical terms to stay in line with the EEC on subsidies unless European

policy is changed it could consider reducing British subsidies to nearer the 20 per cent mark if BS fortunes improved. The alternative of privatization, fully or partly, seems for the time being to have a slim chance of being successful but that situation could change by about 1990 should the industry hopes of a turnaround by then be actually borne out.

Already in the year to the end of this month BS expects to bring losses down by a fifth compared with the previous financial year when it was in the red by £148 million, an increase of £11 million over 1985.

TEMPUS

Sale Tilney looks out for buys despite uncertain conditions

Sale Tilney's 42 per cent rise in pretax profits to end-November would have been even higher had its year ended a few weeks earlier.

The fall-out from Black Monday has made the market for financial services less buoyant, but in the long term the company is in no doubt that its investment services will be needed.

The financial services division still registered a 43.6 per cent rise in operating profits.

The insurance market is also heading into a down cycle, but Sale Tilney has some protection by being both a broker and an underwriter.

The broking side is suffering from rate softening and a weak dollar, but underwriting is faring better. The fall in the insurance operating profit last year to just £74,000 from £723,000 was mainly because of a £1 million reserve put aside to meet potential claims from longer-term business.

The technology side, by far the most profitable, showed a 33.5 per cent jump in operating profit to £5.6 million and the order book for the present year is encouraging.

The now-shrunken food division made a £1 million recovery to an operating profit of £319,000.

The sale for £21.2 million of Newtime Foods last year means the company is now out of food manufacturing. It also has quite a sizeable lump sum of cash and virtually no gearing, which puts it in good shape to make acquisitions.

There are a couple of possibilities in the engineering sector and elsewhere.

The shares rose 3p to 230p, but are still a very long way from their peak at 380p. The 6 per cent yield should provide support until the stock market recovers its nerve.

Bid speculation appears to be fading as the Burns-Anderson stake, bought before Black Monday, has been half sold.

FKB Group

The FKB Group is making an initial £12.9 million (£7.28 million) step, which could eventually turn out to be a \$58.7 million leap, into the US to put it firmly on the world stage of marketing and sales promotion.

The acquisition of four companies will change the profits pie at FKB from 100 per cent generated in Britain, into one where 30 per cent comes from the US.

As it is responsible for 55 per cent of the world spend in the marketing and sales promotion field, compared with a modest 5 per cent represented by Britain, the US move opens up new avenues for FKB, and further international exposure is sure to follow.

To fund the deal and give some spare cash, there is to be a two-for-three rights issue at 210p a share. FKB is due to report shortly on its financial year, which ended in March, and after the previous year's £2.07 million the expectation is for pretax profits of £3.6 million.

For the following year, taking in 11 months' benefit of the US deals and assuming some interest element from that part of the rights money not immediately spent, profits should approach £8 million on which earnings would be about 25p a share. There is, therefore, no earnings dilution following the rights issue.

The maximum additional payment of \$46.8 million will only come into play if the four companies being bought achieve a compound growth rate of 35 per cent over the next four years. The four are being bought on an exit p/e ratio of about 8.5.

ADT

If a week is a long time in politics, see what a decade can do in business. In 1979, with a grammar school education, a Higher National Diploma in business studies and one brief

success story behind him, Michael Ashcroft took control of a tiny, but quoted, camping equipment maker.

Hawley-Goodall, later to become Hawley Group, was making profits of £22,000 a year. Ten years later it checks in with a pretax total of £94.8 million. It has been transformed into what Mr Ashcroft describes as one of the world's leading services companies, whose three legs, in security, office cleaning and hospital housekeeping, and car auctions, each ranking as a leader in its sector.

What else has changed? For one thing, Hawley is no longer a British company. It has shifted its domicile to Bermuda, and it reports in dollars. For another, it is no longer called Hawley. It has assumed the name of ADT.

America's biggest burglar and fire-alarm group, acquired in a £400 million deal last August.

While adopting an acronym as a title has become increasingly fashionable, it is figures like those produced for 1987 on which the group must surely rely if it is to achieve the popularity its record deserves. For the change that has been the longest in coming has been the acceptance of Mr Ashcroft and his group by the City and its big investors.

More than half the profit advance — \$42.2 million (£23.86 million) out of \$72.2 million — was organic, and three divisions are on target so far this year. Sales have topped £1 billion for the first time, compound growth in fully diluted earnings has topped 25 per cent a year since 1983. With ADT underpinned by contracts running beyond 2000 the shares, shortly to be quoted in the US, merit better than the 8.2 p/e multiple they commanded at last night's close of 116p.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling Index compared with 1975 was some at 74.3 (day's range 74.7-74.8).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for March 4

	Range	Close	1 month	3 months
New York	1.7680-1.7750	1.7740-1.7750	0.34-0.31 pr	1.08-1.13pr
Montreal	2.1916-2.2112	2.2201-2.2312	0.16-0.09 pr	0.45-0.52 pr
Amsterdam	3.3523-3.3990	3.3523-3.3990	1% 1/4 pr	4% 3/4 pr
Brussels	62.50-62.73	62.57-62.73	22-70	56-59 pr
Frankfurt	11.4340-11.4917	11.4730-11.4917	1% 1/2 pr	4% 3/4 pr
Dublin	1.1236-1.1257	1.1242-1.1257	15-10 pr	38-29 pr
Frankfurt	2.2200-2.2380	2.2200-2.2380	10-14 pr	28-31 pr
London	74.7-74.8	74.7-74.8	10-14 pr	28-31 pr
Paris	244.63-246.52	245.45-246.40	1% 1/2 pr	4% 3/4 pr
Madrid	201.05-201.23	201.11-201.49	25-25 pr	60-110 pr
Osaka	2205.94-2212.25	2207.56-2210.56	25-25 pr	60-110 pr
Tokyo	11.2362-11.3346	11.3134-11.3346	4% 1/2 pr	13% 1/2 pr
Panama	10.1322-10.1506	10.1373-10.1473	1% 1/2 pr	3% 1/2 pr
Osaka	10.8272-10.8478	10.8478-10.8678	1% 1/2 pr	3% 1/2 pr
Yokohama	228.02-228.81	228.02-228.78	1% 1/2 pr	3% 1/2 pr
Vancouver	21.03-21.11	21.17-21.17	9% 3/4 pr	27% 3/4 pr
Wellington	2.8790-2.8825	2.8790-2.8825	1% 1/2 pr	4% 1/4 pr

Premiums as per Discount on c/s.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral	11.0593-11.1542
Australia dollar	2.4356-2.4360
Bahrian dinar	0.6555-0.6595
Brazil cruzeiro	178.00-178.07
Canada dollar	0.9000-0.9010
Colombian peso	7.2525-7.2535
Greece drachma	239.25-241.25
Hong Kong dollar	13.48-13.47
India rupee	20.05-23.29
Kuwait dirham KID	0.4870-0.4810
Malaysia dollar	4.5642-4.5340
Mexico peso	401.0-411.0
New Zealand dollar	2.9392-2.9652
Saudi Arabia riyal	7.6176-7.6176
Singapore dollar	3.5647-3.5743
S Africa rand (rth)	4.9417-5.0134
S Africa rand (lth)	3.8057-3.8100
U A E dirham	6.4900-6.5200

*Lloyds Bank. Rates supplied by Exel and Barclays Bank.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	2.5715-2.5730	Denmark	6.4680-6.4730
Singapore	1.0140-2.0160	W Germany	1.6593-1.6545
Switzerland	1.7370-1.7540	France	4.4075-4.4225
Australia	1.1760-1.1770	Netherlands	1.8395-1.9006
Canada	1.2545-1.2555	Sweden	5.7250-5.7240
Sweden	6.0090-6.1040	Japan	1.25-1.2510
Norway	6.3780-6.3830		

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Exel.

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates % Clearing Banks 9 Finance Base 9%
Discount Market Lanes %

Overnight 1% 1 month 3% 3 months 6% 9%
Treasury Bill (Discount) %

Buying 2 mth - 8 1/2% 3 mth - 8 1/2%
Selling 2 mth - 8 1/2% 3 mth - 8 1/2%

Prime Bank Rate (Discount) %
1 mth: 8 1/2% 2 mth: 8 1/2% 3 mth: 8 1/2% 6 mth: 8 1/2%

Local Authority Deposits %
1 mth: 9% 2 mth: 9% 3 mth: 9% 6 mth: 9%

Interbanks (%): Overnight: open - close 8%
1 week: 8 1/2% 1 mth: 8 1/2% 3 mth: 9% 6 mth: 9%

Local Authority Deposits (%):
1 mth: 9% 2 mth: 9% 3 mth: 9% 6 mth: 9%

Local Authority Bonds (%):
6 mth: 9% 9% 9% 12 mth: 9% 9%

Local Authority Bonds (%):
1 mth: 9% 2 mth: 9% 3 mth: 9% 6 mth: 9%

Local Authority Bonds (%):
6 mth: 9% 9% 9% 12 mth: 9% 9%

Local Authority Bonds (%):
1 mth: 9% 2 mth: 9% 3 mth: 9% 6 mth: 9%

Local Authority Bonds (%):
6 mth: 9% 9% 9% 12 mth: 9% 9%

Dollar Cds (%): 1 mth: 6.70-6.8% 3 mth: 6.75-6.8% 6 mth: 6.85-6.8%

12 mth: 7.10-7.05

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Germany: 7 day: 1% 1 mth: 1% 3 mth: 1% 6 mth: 1%

France: 7 day: 1% 1 mth: 1% 3 mth: 1% 6 mth: 1%

Switzerland: 7 day: 1% 1 mth:

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INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

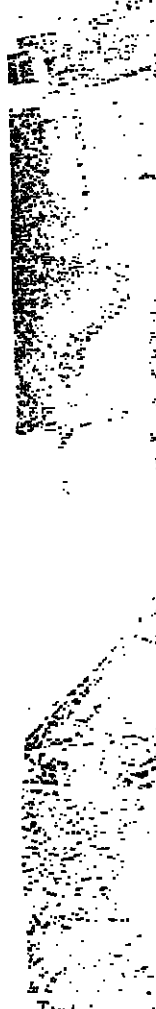
A tax

The Chancellor's
his Budget will
reduce the tax
relief for single
people sharing a
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Tax built into

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THE ULTIMATE POWER
ALL YOUR MONEY
CREDITED MONTHLY
SO ACCESSIBLE
PENALTY FOR EARLY
WITHDRAWAL

Consider the
existing investment
• High interest rates
Market rates
• No notice of withdrawal
• A cheque book for
cumbersome, more
• Easy lodgement of
• A Bank of Scotland
• The security of a
bank
• A monthly statement
paid to one of your

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- The only requirement is an opening balance of £100, that any transaction over £250
- Cheques may be cashed at third parties
- Statements are issued more frequently than
- Interest rates are published daily in the Press and Fleet Street, page 3

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An additional deposit of £100 will be required when your cheque book is returned later.

Bank of Scotland Money Market Cheque Account

The Chancellor in his Budget could reduce the tax relief for single people sharing a mortgage

There are also likely to be cuts in the higher rates and perhaps simplification of the banding system.

Gary Styles, an economist at the Halifax Building Society, says: "We are working on the assumption that the highest rate will be reduced from 60 per cent to 50 per cent."

It is possible the Chancellor will apply a restriction on loans taken from March 15 onwards and a contract to borrow under the old arrangements might just save the day. The outlook on interest

Reductions in tax rates will raise questions about other aspects of financial planning. As Mr Andrews explains: "The general strategic thrust should be to push income into

There is also the possibility that tax relief on pension contributions will be limited to the basic rate, but that this will also will apply to contracts taken out after the Budget. Those who are self-employed or have no com-

special attention in the Budget is those running Investors should hold off from starting a new Personal Equity Plan as there could be some relaxation on the restrictions on them.

Maria Scott

Maria Scott

To complicate matters, Matthew has found that when he does work for TV — the *Taggart* series and a BBC film, *The Govan Ghost Story*, he is paid without any tax being deducted. Matthew's accountant has tried to appeal against the decision to force him into PAYE status but the Inland Revenue says that he cannot appeal.

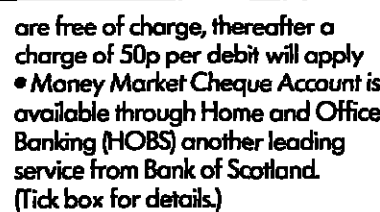
This may have something to do with the strong lobbying from Equity, the actors union, which has been debating the subject with the Revenue. After a court decision (*Hitchen v Fall*), a circular went out to the Theatrical Management Association from Inland Revenue technical di-

As a guideline, it says that an employee will not be allowed to send a substitute to do the work for him; can expect someone to tell them what to do and when and how to do it; and will be expected to work set hours. Whereas a self-employed person will control what he does, whether he does and how he does it; will provide the major items of equipment needed for the job and will have to correct unsatisfactory.

VG

**Bank of Scotland
Money Market
Cheque Account.**

* Subject to status and permanent U.K. residency.



Customers entitled to Gross interest (Not ordinarily available to new customers)

Applied Rate	Compounded
	account of mon

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* I am/We are aged 18 or over.
* I/We enclose a cheque made payable to Bank of

Full Name(s) _____

Postcode _____

For joint accounts, all parties must sign the application, but only one signature will be required on cheques.

Should the cheque not be drawn on your own bank account please provide details of your bankers opposite



BANK OF SCOTLAND
A FRIEND FOR LIFE

Duménil Income Strategy Fund

Further information, which can be found at other pages, is sold to investors on a public basis daily in leading national newspapers. Companies are not permitted to disseminate information of this nature and are not permitted to disseminate information of this nature and are not permitted to disseminate information of this nature.

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FIXED PRICE OFFER UNTIL 11TH MARCH 1988 ONLY

To: Central Unit Trust Management Limited
for Central Unit Trust Management Limited

1 We wish to invest £_____ (maximum £1,000)

in the Current Income Strategy fund of the price ruling on receipt of this application. A cheque is enclosed payable to: Current Unit Trust Management Limited

I am ☐ under 18 years of age ☐ Please tick box if respondent is of income is irregular

(This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland)
Please send my copy of Document ☐ 1511
for 50.000000

European Investment Bulletin ☐ (Please tick) TI 5/3

also occurred on a female collected by the FBI on only August 2 day of the peak (table 1). In the 2000 season, birds were collected from 10 to 15 July, and 100% of the birds were normally dispatched within seven days. Catabolism was usually completed within a week, and there was a 50% reduction in 10 days of the peak (table 1). The 2001 season was similar to 3.84% of the birds were included in the peak. There was a 50% reduction in 10 days of the peak (table 1).

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and Unit Trust Management Limited, 54 St. James's Street, London SW1A 1JT. The fund is a UK authorised Unit Trust.

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*Planned Savings Surveys 1974-86 inclusive.

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Postcode

Date of Birth



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The Equitable Life

Before you look to your future, look to our past.

FAMILY MONEY

Topping up a tippie

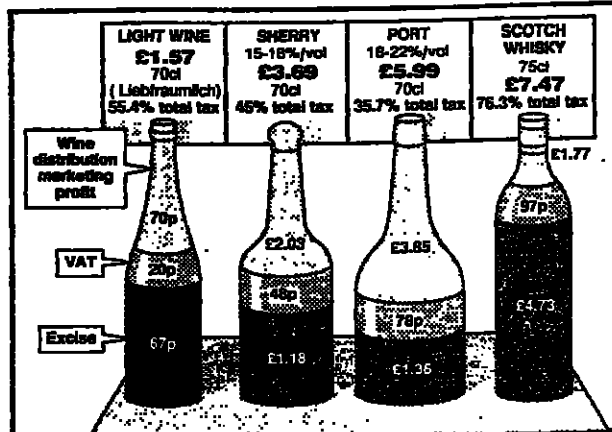
CONAL GREGORY, Master of Wine, examines the likely moves of the Chancellor on Budget day

Drinkers and the drinks trade are braced for the Budget on March 15 as duty has not been raised now for two years. There was some surprise last March that there was not even a rise in line with inflation.

The Chancellor may have some surprises this year too. He is being a good European intent on harmonization, he may lower excise duties while perhaps imposing higher VAT. Then there are the lobbies of the whisky industry and the anti-alcohol pressure groups to placate.

The Chancellor would need to up-rate alcohol duties by 13.7 per cent to match March 1985 prices when they were last increased. This would raise the price of a typical bottle of wine (70cl) by 10.8p, a bottle of full-strength Scotch whisky by 74.4p, and beer by 2.9p a pint.

Such increases would please the vociferous anti-alcohol lobby, but there are two problems. Increasing indirect taxes would raise the Retail Price Index, and, with the need to have European Community taxes harmon-



ized by 1992, the Chancellor would have to make some steep adjustments in later years.

In Europe, only Denmark and the Irish Republic impose higher excise duties on wine than the UK at 78p and £1.25 per 70cl respectively, but six countries have higher VAT rates for wine and eight for spirits. Will March 15 bring a higher drinks VAT rate to appease the rest of Europe?

Richard Haydon, of the Shrewsbury-based Tanners, has been removing 1985 Bordeaux wines from the minor estate from bond to avoid a possible duty rise. This wine attracts £8.82 per dozen bottles, plus 80p if it is non-European Community, such

as today's popular Australian and Californian wines.

John Harvey, of the distinguished Bristol company, would not be surprised by a tax increase on wines if income tax is lowered. He is holding Harvey's list until May 1.

Buy ahead of March 15 to catch pre-Budget prices, regardless of the Chancellor, as many merchants have held levels passed from the wholesale trade until the publication of their post-Budget list. Laytons of London will increase Deutz Champagne by £5 per dozen bottles for the non-vintage and £8 for the vintage 1985 Brut after the Budget, plus or minus any tax changes.

Trust prices rise in the East

Look East for more than promises. This is the message from latest figures on unit trust performance.

The average Japanese fund gained more than 10.7 per cent on an offer-to-bid basis in the past year, and seven of the top 10 performers were Japanese-based.

The signs are that momentum is continuing, with the league table of top 25 performers in the past month showing a heavy sprinkling of Japanese funds. TR Japan Growth leads the table with a 17.2 per cent gain offer-to-offer.

European funds, which took a severe hammering in the October crash, are beginning to give the Japanese a run for their money. Second place over one month goes to Dumenil German Growth, with a 16.9 per cent gain, and there are five other European funds in the top 10.

The average gain in the European sector was 7.4 per cent in February, only narrowly beaten by the average Japanese fund, which grew 7.5 per cent. These figures compare well with the average unit trust, which rose by 2.1 per cent on an offer-to-offer basis.

Four months after the crash, one-year figures are showing the resilience of income and fixed interest funds. Guinness Mahon's High Income fund produced a 37.8 per cent gain. Royal Trust Preference Share comes fourth, up 33.5 per cent, and Grofund Gilt is ninth, up 31.1 per cent.

In terms of performance in the longer term, Key Income is



the top over five years and there are six Japanese funds in the top 10.

Gold trusts performed badly in February. The worst performance came from Govett Gold & Minerals, down 23.6 per cent. Waverley Australasian Gold, which was a top performer for a time last year, is still dropping like a stone, losing 17.4 per cent of its value in February on an offer-to-offer basis. Ken Senger, of Bristol-based Whitechurch Securities, says: "The U.K. is still the best. A period of consolidation is no bad thing in these market conditions."

He is amazed at the resilience of the Japanese market which has been fuelled by optimistic domestic buying. "International investors have been scared off. The p/yes are so high, they scare you right."

He is not keen on the prospects for Europe, believing the present rally may be short-lived. "I can't see what's going to get it going again," he says.

Of the recent launches — and there has been a surprising number, considering the state of the market — only the Crown Investment Trust fund had a notable month, reports Opal Statistics. It had a 9.4 per cent gain.

Maria Scott

UNIT TRUST PERFORMANCE

Value of £100, offer to bid, income reinvested, one year to March 1, 1988

TOP 10 FUNDS	Performance	Ranking
Baring Japan Sunrise	147.2	1
Guinness Mahon High Income	137.8	2
Hill Samuel Japanese Technology	136.6	3
Royal Trust Preference Share	133.5	4
Cannon Japan	133.0	5
Fidelity Japan Special Situations	132.7	6
MM Britannia Japan Smaller Companies	132.7	7
NM Schroder Japan Smaller Companies	131.4	8
Grofund Gilt	131.1	9
Dumenil Japan Smaller Companies	129.9	10
BOTTOM 10 FUNDS		
Gartmore Australian	50.3	978
Royal Trust PPT Hong Kong	50.3	979
Fidelity Australia	49.4	980
MM Britannia Hong Kong Perform	47.9	981
Target Gold	46.4	982
Dumenil French Growth	44.9	983
Waverley Australasian Gold	41.2	984
Henderson Gold	39.0	985
MM Britannia Australian Growth	33.4	986
Target Australian	23.2	987

Source: Opal Statistics

School fees: how to ease the burden

This week, girls all over the country have been receiving the results of their common entrance exams and know if they will go on to the school of their choice.

But while it may be congratulations for them, it's commiserations for parents faced with paying the school fees.

What can help alleviate their despair, however, is the number of schemes available which reduce the final cost of these fees. The only problem is deciding which is the best value for money.

Take Benenden School, in Kent (fees, £1,870 a term). The bursar, Robin Dalton Holmes, says that most parents come to him about two years before their daughter is expected to start. "But it makes a lot more sense to be thinking about it five to ten years ahead," he says.

"We tell parents what a capital sum will secure in each academic year. Somebody came to me in January, for instance, and said they wanted to put £10,500 down towards fees, running for five years from autumn 1991. I was able to say this sum would produce £949 for the first three terms; £1,005 for the three terms in 1992; £1,066 for 1993; £1,130 for 1994; and £1,197 for 1995. The saving would be about £5,550."

Cheltenham Ladies College (fees £2,120 for boarders a term, £1,420 for day pupils) also offers a discount if the fees are paid in advance. Its pre-payment scheme is popular, 200 present and prospective pupils are on it.

The bursar, Anthony Siddall, says: "We find that paying the fees in advance

only two years before a child comes is not terrifically beneficial. The best way is to pay before they are five or six. The lump sum required from the parents is based on our estimate that fees will go up by 10 per cent per annum over the seven years.

But while the trend in independent schools is towards prepayment discounts, not all schools offer this.

St Paul's Girls' School in London (fees day pupils only £1,145 a term) has withdrawn its skirts from such financial complications — the school governors think prepayments are not worthwhile.

And if you ask Giggleswick School, in North Yorkshire (fees £2,086 for senior boarders; £1,393 for day pupils), for discount information, you are briskly referred to a specialist firm, School Fees Insurance Agency (10 Queen Street, Maidenhead).

Anthony Hastings at the agency says: "We use insurance, with the big name companies, as a means of investment. If a child was going to Giggleswick in five years' time and you want to provide £55,000 of fees, you would pay £25,000. It's a saving of some £30,000."

Although it sounded like special pleading when he claimed that a specialised school fees plan was better than going to a building society, he made the valid point that "people who put their money into a building society start off with the best of intentions, but take the money out for various other things as the children grow up."

Joy Melville

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When you decide to save with Yearly Plan, you just fill in our standing order form, authorising monthly payments of between £20 and £200, in multiples of £5.

After 12 monthly payments, we send you a Yearly Plan Certificate.

At this point you can decide whether or not to go on saving for another Yearly Plan. If you do, you simply let your monthly payments run on. If you want to stop, you just cancel the standing order.

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throughout the year continues earning interest for the next four years. The guaranteed return now on offer works out at a tax-free 7% per annum if you hold your Certificate for the full four years. It's that simple.

VALUE OF MONTHLY PAYMENTS	VALUE OF TWELVE MONTHLY PAYMENTS	TAX FREE VALUE AFTER FIVE YEARS
£20	£240	£326.58
£100	£1200	£1632.86
£200	£2400	£3265.72

And, as you can see from our examples chart, National Savings Yearly Plan can help you build a substantial lump sum with a minimum of management on your part.

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A BETTER DEAL IN STOCKBROKING

FAMILY MONEY

Move into bed and breakfast

Rowan Barnes-Murphy

B & B means lodging investments overnight to provide a 'silver lining' for the coming dawn of capital gains tax. Book early

The massive drop in share prices last year may well have produced a cloud of losses on many of your investments. Now is the time to consider using them to provide the silver tax lining.

Bed and breakfast can cut down any potential capital gains tax bill you are going to face for this present tax year.

You have only a month to make your move. The 1987/88 tax year ends on April 5, and if you are going to use your losses you must do so before then. Leaving the move until the last minute is particularly unwise this year, for the last day of the financial year also happens to be the first working day after Easter.

What is bed and breakfast? It is the process of selling shares, unit trusts or other investments to establish that you have made a gain or a loss on them. You then buy them back, usually next day. You set the loss you have made against gains elsewhere to cut back or eliminate a capital gains tax bill.

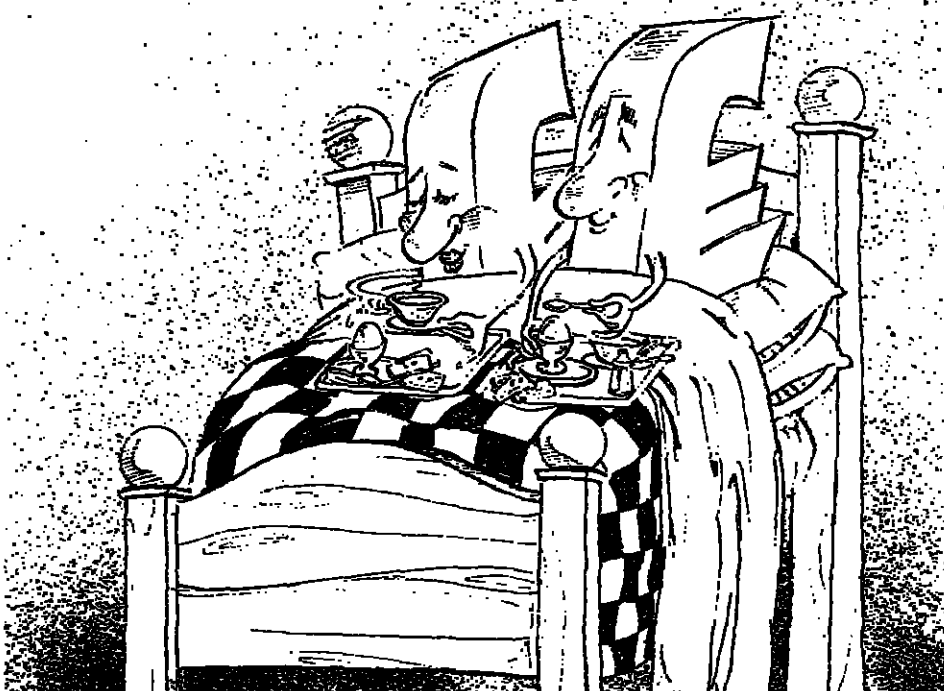
The crucial point is to discover whether you will have a capital gains tax bill in the first place - for it certainly is not automatic.

Some gains - like those you make on selling your home, or through investing in gilts - do

not count for tax at all. What is more, allowances in this present tax year ensure that the first £6,000 you make in taxable gains is free - and the effective starting point is higher still. You can discount inflation in working out any gains you have made since 1982. If indexing and the allowances are not enough to ensure that you avoid a tax bill, you will have to pay 30 per cent on capital gains, above whatever your starting point may be.

Bed and breakfast can reduce it, but the process involves costs of its own. If you do a bed and breakfast on direct shareholdings, you will have to pay stockbroker's commission, value added tax, stamp duty on buying back the shares, and indeed the market maker's turn - larger than it used to be now that the spread between the price at which you buy shares and sell them has widened.

Overall, the process will set you back by at least £100 on a relatively small holding, though there are some special deals around. For instance, ShareLink, the no-fills dealing service which revealed this week that it is not 100 per cent owned by Birmingham stockbrokers Albert E. Sharp and that BT has a majority stake in it, will absorb the market-



makers turn for bed and breakfast deals over £8,000.

David Jones, ShareLink chief executive, said: "We see no reason why bed and breakfast investors should pay an additional charge to cover the market-makers' administration costs or turn."

Overall, though, bed and breakfasting is worthwhile

only if you can establish a substantial tax saving.

You can use bed and breakfasting with unit trusts, though some managers are wary. They fear that the Inland Revenue may always come down against people who sell units and then buy them back the next day, using the legal judgment in the Furness v

Dawson case which laid down that a transaction just to avoid tax can be disallowed.

If you want to be safe, they suggest that when you sell one set of units, you should reinvest the money in other funds.

Joyce Jacobs, of the Inland Revenue, maintains that the worries are unnecessary, say-

ing: "We have never applied the judgment in Furness v Dawson to bed and breakfasting. It was delivered 2½ years ago and I do not believe we are going to start doing so now."

If you want to bed and breakfast your units, costs vary sharply between the different unit trust groups. Save and Prosper allows you to sell the units at the bid or cash-in price, and to buy them back the following day at the same price plus 1 per cent. But there is a minimum levy of £30 on deals for less than £3,000. Fidelity has a similar system, though it uses the following day's bid price plus 1 per cent, so the price may alter.

Costs elsewhere are higher. Barclays Unicorn will normally give you a 4 per cent discount on the units you buy back after bed and breakfasting. The spread between the bid and offer prices on its units is around 6 per cent. So effectively the cost of bed and breakfasting works out at 2 per cent of the value of your units.

Framlington will give the same terms to those who want to bed and breakfast their units as it does to investors who switch from one fund to another. The group offers a 2.5 per cent discount on the standard 5.5 per cent spread between the price at which you buy and then sell back units. So effectively the charge works out at 3 per cent on deals up to £10,000, though they are lower on higher sums.

If prices vary, so do the terms. Some groups like Fidelity insist that you send in your old units, and they then issue you with new ones, but most do not.

Tom Tickell

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All-important reversionary, or annual, bonuses have been restored to the life and pensions policies of UK Provident Institution, which was rescued by Friends Provident in mid-1986.

Investors will now receive one bonus covering two years, 1986 and 1987. The bonuses themselves are 10 per cent lower than the last ones paid to UKPI policyholders at the end of 1985, but Friends Provident says this is only right considering the present investment climate and the recent state of UKPI's fund.

Once added to the value of a policy, reversionary bonuses cannot be taken away. Any decision to trim them, let alone suspend them altogether, is interpreted as a sign of trouble, either in the general investment climate or the life office's own business.

So restoration of reversionary bonuses to UKPI policies is a signal that fortunes are on the upturn again for the company's investors.

Bonus rates are added to policies as a percentage of the sum assured plus the value of previous bonuses. UKPI's rates for 1986 and 1987 are 9 per cent for ordinary life policies, equivalent to £4.40 per cent compounded annually, and £9.10 per cent for the 300 abstaining individuals who hold whole life termance policies.

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LEGAL & FINANCIAL

Lady with Eastern promise

**Edward Fennell meets
Jia Zhao, the tough-
minded lawyer who
helped build a legal
bridge between China
and the West**

In the midst of the China-mania which has gripped the media in the wake of *The Last Emperor*, it is my pleasure to announce that this column has its own Chinese "exclusive". Earlier this week in the Aldwych offices of Baker & McKenzie, the world's largest law firm, I had the privilege of meeting Jia Zhao (pronounced *Ja Jow*), a woman who has been at the centre of the normalization of Chinese relations with the West.

Jia Zhao is an official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing. She is a member of the All-China Lawyers Association and, most important of all, she is the first citizen of the People's Republic of China to be allowed to come to the West, initially to train and then actually to practise, as a lawyer.

Now a fully-qualified attorney at law admitted in the State of Illinois and District of Columbia, she is a living symbol of the changes going on in China over the last 10 years. And I am honoured to say that *The Times* is the first newspaper in Europe or America to whom she has agreed to give an interview.

Although extremely modest and, as she says, "keen to keep a low profile", Jia Zhao's story has all the elements of struggle and drama which could easily lend themselves to some film biography in the years to come.

Brought up in the shadow of the Cultural Revolution, Jia Zhao's adolescence was spent in the belief that the West was the great enemy. But then, in the early 1970s, just as politics were changing, she got her first job as a junior official in the Foreign Ministry.

"They were very exciting times," said Jia Zhao. "The first banquet I attended was when President Nixon and Dr Kissinger came to Beijing in 1972. The visit involved difficult and painstaking work and required enormous efforts on both sides. But we recognize that it was worth it because it was history in the making."

At that time there was really no such thing as a lawyer in China. Nor was there anything which we in the West would understand as "law", although this was soon to change. During the 1970s, the Chinese legal system was gradually put together and as the country began to take its proper place in the international community there was the need for laws which, among other things, would govern company and commercial activity.



Keeping a low profile: lawyer Jia Zhao

It was at this point that Baker & McKenzie appeared on the scene. During the mid-1970s, while Jia Zhao was working on the American desk at the Foreign Ministry, the firm was developing its interest in China. Then, as soon as the doors opened, Eugene Theroux, a leading partner in the firm and the brother of the author Paul Theroux, took a room in a Beijing hotel so as to advise Western clients on how to do business in the new environment.

Baker & McKenzie obviously saw a role for themselves in China, but it was no overnight success. Other firms tried but did not have the stamina to persevere. Baker & McKenzie, however, were determined to stay in there.

By the end of the 1970s commercial contacts between the United States and China were such that the Chinese government felt it needed its own experts on American law. And that was when Jia Zhao's remarkable opportunity came. She was offered a place at Harvard Law School on the course leading to the qualification of Juris Doctor.

Frankly, the cultural shift for one brought up in China to switch suddenly to WASP-dominated Harvard is hard to imagine. Her command of the English language presented no problems. But her grasp of the concepts which inspire the apparatus of capitalism was, understandably, uncertain.

"For example, I couldn't understand how it was possible to gain tax relief for making a charitable donation. In China if you give to charity it is a gift for its own sake and not for any tax considerations." And terms such as "securities" were also puzzling to her, especially when her only idea of "security" was in a military sense.

So, in the tough environment of intensely competitive Harvard, life was difficult. "But there were so many people watching me and relying on me that I couldn't give up," says Jia Zhao. "In the end it became a matter of my national pride and I realized that it was necessary to keep going now matter how tough things became."

In the summer of 1983 her determination paid off. She achieved her academic qualification and subsequently was admitted to the Bar. This involved taking an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States of America, an interesting position for a sincere servant of the Chinese government to find herself in.

Meanwhile, things were looking up for Baker & McKenzie. Through dogged perseverance they had won the confidence of the Chinese government and when, in the historic case of the 1911 Railway Bonds, the Chinese were sued by American bond-holders, Baker & McKenzie were retained to fight the case on their behalf. In a vital judgement in the Supreme Court the Chinese won on the grounds that they were not responsible for the "odious debts" of their predecessors. It was another landmark on the way to normalizing the country's relations with the West.

As it happens, Jia Zhao, who by this time was back in China, was also involved in this case, explaining to her government the details of what was going on.

Not long after came the culmination of her extraordinary career when the Foreign Ministry suggested that she should gain further experience working with a Western law firm. And, not surprisingly perhaps, she chose Baker & McKenzie.

Of course, as you might imagine, a lot of her activity has been with the firm's China practice, but she has also acted as a straightforward tax lawyer giving advice, for example, to the US business community on the details of the American tax system.

"Naturally I remain first a Chinese citizen, but when I am working for Baker & McKenzie I feel fully a member of their team," says Jia Zhao. "That is the way I must work to do the job properly."

Baker & McKenzie now have three full-time "presences" in China — in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou — and a 30-strong "China team" worldwide. It is the only firm of lawyers which has registered consultant status with the government, and it feels that its Chinese practice is on the verge of great things. Surprisingly, no other British firms are yet working in China despite our strong presence in Hong Kong.

As for Jia Zhao, she will soon be going back to China to resume her career in the Foreign Ministry. "I have tried to benefit from taking the best of both Eastern and Western cultures, and I am grateful to my government for giving me so much support," she says.

"Looking back I feel very strongly that my experience at Baker & McKenzie has enabled me to fulfil my potential. And, of course, I have valued my opportunities highly because, like most Chinese people, I recognize that I can never take anything for granted."

Law Report March 5 1988

Losing right to compound interest

**National Bank of Greece SA v
Pinios Shipping Co No 1 and
Another**

Before Lord Justice O'Connor,
Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord
Justice Nicholls
[Judgment March 2]

A bank had no right to charge compound interest under its contractual relationship with a customer once the relationship of banker and customer ceased following a demand for immediate payment of outstanding sums due on the account, the relationship having thereby become one of creditor and debtor. The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when it allowed in part the appeal of the defendants, Pinios Shipping Co No 1, owners of the vessel Maira, which was a total loss in April 1978, and Mr George Dionysios Tsilialis, a guarantor of the shipowners' liabilities, from Mr Justice Leggatt who, on January 29, 1987, gave judgment for the plaintiff bank in its claim for repayment under a loan agreement in the sum of \$2,118,213, which included a sum for compound interest to the date of judgment.

The Maira was built in Japan and 70 per cent of her purchase price was deferred, secured by a first preferred mortgage in favour of the bank and by promissory notes signed by the owners payable at six monthly intervals. The bank guaranteed the first six promissory notes under a letter of guarantee, and itself was secured by a second preferred mortgage and by the

second defendant's personal guarantee. The bank under the letter of guarantee paid the amount of the first promissory note when it was dishonoured, and debited the shipowners, thereafter, a tripartite arrangement was made between the bank, the shipowners and an agent, the effect of which transferred the entire management of the vessel, including its insurance, to the agent subject to the bank's directions.

At the time of her loss the proceeds of the vessel's insurance were insufficient to enable the shipowners to repay the bank under the loan agreement. The House of Lords had held the agent was in breach of duty for the under-insurance. *Glafki Shipping Co SA v Pinios Shipping Co No 1* ([1986] 2 Lloyd's Rep 12), but the agent had refused to pay.

The present court had dismissed the shipowners' appeal from Mr Justice Leggatt that the bank had an implied contractual duty under the agreement, or alternatively a duty of care in tort, to ensure that the agents fulfilled their obligations under the tripartite agreement. Leave to appeal only on the compound interest point was granted.

Mr Adrian Hamilton, QC and Miss Geraldine Andrews for the shipowners; Mr Murray Pickering, QC and Mr David C. Owen for the bank.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that there was no express provision in the loan agreement of February 1977 or in the second preferred mortgage entitling the

bank to charge compound interest, although there was a provision for an increase in the rate of interest in the event of default. Nor was there any provision for periodic rests. Mr Hamilton had conceded that the bank was entitled to charge compound interest with quarterly rests during the currency of the banker/customer relationship, but once the bank demanded payment in November 1978 that relationship ended, and the bank could only charge simple interest like any other creditor.

His Lordship said that in *Ferguson v Fyfe* ([1841] 8 Clark & Fennell 121, 140) the House of Lords held that a contract for compound interest was not available generally, except perhaps as to mercantile accounts current for mutual transactions.

Despite Mr Pickering's submission that that case ceased to have relevance after the repeal of the Usury Acts in 1854, a strongly-constituted Court of Appeal in 1931 (Lord Justice Scrutton, Lord Justice Greer and Lord Justice Romer) regarded that case as good law: see *Deutsche Bank und Disconto-Gesellschaft v Banque des Marchés de Moscou* (reported in *Legal Decisions Affecting Bankers* volume 4 (1949) p293).

His Lordship added that if the effect of the court's decision would cause bankers dismay and consternation the remedy lay in their own hands. Since the repeal of the Usury Acts there was nothing to stop them making express provision for compound interest in their contracts.

LORD JUSTICE NICHOLS and LORD JUSTICE O'CONNOR delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Elborne Mitchell Thomas Cooper & Stibbard.

Litigant's right to fair trial survives contempt

**Logicrose Ltd v Southend
United Football Club Ltd**
Before Mr Justice Millett
[Judgment February 5]

A litigant was not to be deprived of his right to a fair trial as a result of his contempt or his defiance of the court unless his conduct amounted to an abuse of the process of the court which would render any further proceedings unsatisfactory and prevent the court from doing justice.

Mr Justice Millett so held in the Chancery Division when dismissing an application by the defendant, Southend United Football Club Ltd, during the trial of an action by the plaintiff, Logicrose Ltd against the club, for an order that the action be dismissed, the defence to be struck out and judgment on it to be entered for the defendant.

Mr Edward Nugee, QC and Mr Frederick Philpott for Logicrose; Mr John McDonnell, QC and Mr Guy Newey for the club.

MR JUSTICE MILLETT said that the application, which was of an unprecedented kind, was made under Order 24, rule 16 of the Rules of the Supreme Court on the ground that the plaintiff had failed to comply with the

requirements for discovery. It was alleged that Mr Harris, who was the principal director and shareholder of the plaintiff and was their principal witness, had not merely failed to disclose the existence of a crucial document in his possession or power, but that, having obtained it during the course of the trial (and during his cross-examination) he deliberately suppressed it and, for a time, concealed its existence from the court.

That was a very serious allegation indeed, if true it would deserve the serious consequences for which the defendant asked, but it had to be clearly proved. Despite Mr Nugee's submissions to the contrary, his Lordship was satisfied that such an allegation did not have to be proved in accordance with the criminal standard of proof.

However, deliberate disobedience of a peremptory order for discovery was no doubt a contempt and, if proved in accordance with the criminal standard, might in theory be visited with a fine or imprisonment. But to deprive the plaintiff of a further part in the proceedings and to give judgment against him accordingly was not an appropriate response by the court to contempt.

It might, however, be an appropriate response to a failure to comply with the rules relating to discovery even in the absence of a specific order of the court, and so in the absence of any contempt, not because that conduct was deserving of punishment but because the failure had rendered it impossible to conduct a fair trial and would make any judgment in favour of the offender unsafe. Before the court took that serious step it needed to be satisfied that there was a real risk of that happening. The action should be allowed to continue and it was quite impossible for his Lordship to be satisfied on the evidence before him at that stage that Mr Harris deliberately attempted to suppress the document. For that reason alone the application was dismissed.

In any event his Lordship would have refused to accede to the application once the missing document had been produced. The object of Order 24, rule 16 was not to punish the offender for his conduct but to secure the fair trial of the action in accordance with the due process of the court: see *Husband v Marchwood Ltd v Drummond Walker Developments Ltd* ([1975] 1 WLR 603).

The deliberate and successful

suppression of a material document was a serious abuse of the process of the court and might well merit the exclusion of the offender from all further participation in the trial. The reason was that it made the fair trial of the action impossible to achieve and judgment in favour of the offender unsafe.

But if the threat of such exclusion produced the missing document then the object of Order 24, rule 16 was achieved. In his Lordship's judgment an action ought to be dismissed or the defence struck out only in the most exceptional circumstances once the missing document had been produced and then only, if despite its production, there remained a real risk that justice could not be done.

That might be the case if it was no longer possible to remedy the consequences of the document's suppression despite its production. It would not be right to drive a litigant from the judgment seat, without a determination of the issues, as a punishment for his conduct, however deplorable, unless there was a real risk that the conduct would render further proceedings unsatisfactory. Solicitors: Ross Williams Wakefield & Co; Jeffries, Southend-on-Sea.

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CRICKET: DILLEY'S TOUR MAY BE OVER ON ANOTHER DAY OF INCOMPETENCE IN THE FIELD

England drop the challenge

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Wellington

Of all the harrowing days England have suffered during this bleak winter overseas, none can match yesterday in Wellington for sheer despairing hopelessness.

By the end of it, only New Zealand could win this final Test match and the series. England were out of the game, only the draw left to play for and victims of their own stunning incompetence in the field as much as of the remorseless New Zealand batting.

For some years now, England's fielding standards have been declining from the heady levels of the late 1970s but I cannot believe they have ever touched the depths reached yesterday. Not only were there more catches dropped, making 15 in this three-Test series, but a number of the ground fielding errors would have embarrassed a schoolboy.

The excuses, or extenuating circumstances if one feels charitable, are first that England were enduring their fourth day of fielding since Sunday and second that they were operating a bowler short, Graham Dilley having broken down just when it seemed he was about to get through a full series with his reputation richly enhanced. These were undoubtedly handicaps, designed to exhaust and frustrate, but a large part of the reason England have been confined to the field for so long is that they persist in dropping vital catches.

In this match to date, Crowe, Rutherford and Bracewell have all been missed when in single figures. At the close last night, the penalty for this trio of blunders stood at 265 runs. . . and both Rutherford and Bracewell were still batting. Crowe, dropped when on six, went on to make 143, his ninth Test century. Rutherford, who might have been caught on one, stands on the brink of what ought to be the first of many Test hundreds.

The sixth-wicket stand between Rutherford and Bracewell, cautiously launched either side of tea, was worth 110 at the end of play, 74 runs having come in a final hour of exhilarating stroke-play against tired bowling, shoddy fielding and transparent attempts at time-wasting. England supporters, of whom there are still several hundred on tour, must have slunk away feeling something akin to shame.

All of this has guaranteed that England will equal their own record run of 13 Tests without a win, and it will be small comfort to Gating and



Improbable breakthrough: Gating traps Crowe leg-before on 143 and succeeds where his full-time bowlers had failed

the management brains trust that they must now aim to end the sequence this summer, against the West Indies.

Dilley did not bow yesterday; indeed, he has not been sighted since tea-time on Thursday, having felt serious discomfort from his right knee after bowling only six overs. The manager, Peter Lush, last night described him as being under "intensive care" and did speculate about his chances of taking any further part in this tour. He did concede that Dilley was not 100 per cent fit when the game began but added that the player himself had been confident of getting through five days.

In Dilley's absence, DeFreitas has performed manfully but the attack as a whole has lacked penetration

on a slow pitch. It is a galling thought that, since England's only innings in the Auckland Test closed at midday on Sunday, New Zealand had been batting for 22 hours and scored 801 runs, while losing only 12 wickets.

Emburey's miss on Thursday, which deprived Crowe, may be the key to this match. Crowe looked better by the hour yesterday, leaning into drives and twirling his feet instinctively into position for piling up runs. When he passed 100 just before lunch, he maintained his record of at least one century in his last six Test series.

He later revealed the extent of his anxiety before this innings. "I have been to hell and back with my form," he said graphically. "I have sought advice from a lot of

people, including my old headmaster in Auckland, who gave me a real brushing down. He could see I was being too negative, that I didn't have the motivation to make things happen. He told me to get back to being Martin Crowe rather than trying to be someone else."

Crowe and Greatbatch, who happened to go to the same school, stretched their partnership to 155, a new fourth-wicket record for New Zealand against England, before Emburey succeeded in teasing out the young left-hander. It was one bright spot in a miserable day for Emburey; his bowling was often ill-directed and he was also guilty of some of the worst fumbles in the field.

Crowe was on 143, made in

six and a half hours, when history repeated itself. Four years ago, also on this ground and just before tea, his maiden Test century was ended by the improbable bowling of Gating. England's captain has taken only two more Test wickets since then but now, with his third delivery, he had Crowe leg-before as he casually played across the line.

Rutherford had already been missed at silly point by Athey, a hard chance, and Bracewell was quickly dropped by Moxon at slip, a low but simple one. He was also later put down by Robinson at mid-wicket, though by then Rutherford had unleashed such a regal selection of off-side strokes that England were metaphorically, and sometimes physically, on the floor.

Cool response by Lush

Wellington — The England tour party reacted coolly last night to new structures from Lord's aimed at eliminating shows of dissent on the field (Alan Lee writes).

Peter Lush, the England manager, said that he had heard nothing directly from his employers at the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) following their spring meeting on Thursday and that his only knowledge of the debate on discipline came from journalists.

"Nobody has given me any new guidelines and nor do I expect any," he said. "The players have known the form since they left England.

Nothing has changed in that respect.

Lush has imposed fines on two players, Chris Broad and Graham Dilley, on this section of the controversial winter tour and there has been a strong impression from the team that they feel they are being persecuted for the sake of appearances.

Judging by the TCCB's reaction, they may be in for a shock. The chief executive, Alan Smith, has said that "mistakes have been made" this winter and given a pointed warning, which the team will not like when he says: "If players are wise, they will not even show disappointment."

RACKETS

Boone has to find his feet again

By William Stephens

James Male holds a commanding position in the world championship, the second leg of which is contested at Queen's Club in London today. Male won the first leg by defeating William Boone 15-2, 15-4, 7-15, 15-4, 15-16 at Chicago last Saturday.

Up to seven games will be played today. Male needs two more games to take the title. For Boone to be certain of regaining it he must win 4-0; if he wins 4-1, the points differential will be the arbiter — and Male leads by 67-31. In the event of complete equality of games and points at the end of the leg, a third leg will be played at Queen's Club within two weeks.

Although Male, aged 23, is well set following his abrupt dismissal of Boone in Chicago, he will not underestimate the task of finally vanquishing the former champion, aged 37. Boone is a great competitor and is never more dangerous than when his back is against the wall.

Boone will not have been exhausted by last week's counter: the match was over in remarkably short time — the games lasting 11, 14, 11, 14 and 14 minutes. Boone will be concerned about returning to the service, even with the North American one-service rule applying. Male won 21 points outright through service against Boone's seven. In the first game Male led 10-0 and in the second 8-0 before Boone could muster a response.

In the rallies Boone has to organize his footwork; in Chicago it was conspicuously absent. Boone frequently hit across the line leaning back, so that the ball travelled high round the walls into the middle of the court for Male to dispatch with clinical precision.

If Male can eliminate his unforced mistakes as successfully as he did in the first two games in Chicago — when he only committed three — he will have secured them. However, when he is lapped into a series of errors in the third game he allowed Boone the opportunity to dominate the front of the court and take the game through use of the angles to kill the ball. At that stage, Boone was beginning to believe in himself once again, but Male was quick to sense the threat and regain his authority.

Severe test for Marly River title challenge

By Our French Racing Correspondent

Marly River, who is expected to become the first French runner in the Champion Hurdle since Paine finished last behind Sea Pigeon in 1980, makes his reappearance at Anteuil tomorrow in the Prix Juigné (2m 20).

This is no soft return, however. The 5-year-old is meeting older rivals for the first time and his six opponents include four of the best hurdlers in France, Claude Le Lorrain, Gacko, Don Kaldoun and Petite Fourcée.

Marly River has a fine record. He and his partner, Jean-Yves Arn, are undefeated in eight outings over hurdles, three in 1986 and five last year. He has total earnings of 1,910,000 francs (£295,480).

His only failure came when he tried a chase, run over the smaller fences at Anteuil on November 1. Even though he fell, Marly River was well clear at the time.

He galloped his last and biggest success to the £47,600 Prix Renaud du Vivier (2m 400) at Anteuil on November 29. It was intended to run him again in the Prix Leon Olry Roederer but the race was postponed and plans were changed. When eventually run on December 21, Claude Le Lorrain won it by a neck and eight lengths from the Breckers Cup Chase winner, Gacko, and Don Kaldoun. He meets them again on the same terms tomorrow.

Claude Le Lorrain, who will be ridden as usual by Patrick Savat, has won his last four races. He will be hard to beat here and it will be no disgrace if Marly River is defeated even though, as a five-year-old, he receives 7lb from his seniors.

Big race field

3.55 PM JUVENILE HURDLE (250,000, 2m 20): 1. Claude Le Lorrain 5-11-3 A. Savat; 2. Gacko 7-11-3 R. Duchene; 3. Petite Fourcée 6-11-3 R. Duchene; 4. Don Kaldoun 6-10-10 C. Aubert; 5. Marly River 5-10-10 J. Arn; 6. Kallio 8-10-8 J. Gay; 7. Tree Sport 7-10-6 D. Moncman.

Bent Deal for Times qualifier

Point-to-point by Brian Beel

With the Derwent meeting postponed for three weeks, two point-to-points remain today with qualifying races in The Times championship series.

At the Bicester, three horses that were in professional yards last season, Jonathan's Boy, Roxel Gamble and the ex-Winter trained, Overstone Gamble, will be making their point-to-point debuts in this race.

It would be no surprise if the winner came from one of this trio but, on proven form, Dan O'Tulley may have the edge over Gibraltar Girl.

Two horses that ran in a hunter chase at Warwick 10 days ago may be the ones to follow the Beaufort where the race has been split into two divisions.

Bent Deal, who ran well in top company last year, will be difficult to beat in the first division while the horse who finished in front of him at Warwick, Fozzie, must have an

RACING

Turf Club acts to avoid new Festival whip controversy

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

In recent years, Irish jockeys have got into considerable trouble at Cheltenham through alleged over-use of the whip and indeed two former champions, Tommy Ryan and Joe Byrne, both picked up suspensions.

In an attempt to forestall any repetition of this year's National Festival, the Irish Turf Club yesterday held a seminar to which all licensed trainers and jockeys, both amateur and professional, were invited.

High on the agenda was the showing of video films illustrating the sort of whip usage that is not tolerated.

At the subsequent discussion professional viewers were canvassed in order to prepare a set of new guidelines.

Michael Clower, the Turf Club's press officer, disclosed that among the suggestions being ventilated was a ban on hitting any horse on the shoulder, and also forbidding the use of holding the whip in the orchard position when hitting horses in front of the saddle. As a result of yesterday's

seminar the Turf Club expects to formulate a code of conduct in the near future. In the meantime, jockeys will have been severely cautioned about putting the good name of Irish racing at risk through any action of theirs at Cheltenham.

At Naas this afternoon, the programme includes two £10,000 races over two miles, sponsored by Irish Life Assurance Company. The first of these, a novice chase, draws into competition Belair and Golden Freeze, both of whom are highly rated.

Belair, winner last year of the Guinness Hurdle at Galway, made a winning debut over the miles, scoring by eight lengths, but he may be held on this occasion by Golden Freeze, who looked the only danger to the Cheltenham-bound Mount Parson when falling in the Irish Hurdle at Punchestown last Saturday.

The conditions of the Irish Life Assurance Hurdle favour Shannon Spray and this mare should prove too good at the weights for Big James.

Last finishes first as leaders lose their way

Quick thinking, allied to swift action, on the part of jockey P. O'Donnell proved that he can even pay off to finish last in an Irish race (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

At Wexford on Thursday, P. O'Donnell's mount, Derry Gowan, finished last in the 15-runner Rathfriland Handicap Chase over three miles but then proceeded to scoop first, second and third prizes, amounting to £15,586, when the stewards disqualified the first nine.

The trouble had occurred on the first circuit when the pace-maker, Lady Daffydawn, went the wrong side of a marker and

the remainder of the field followed suit.

O'Donnell alone realised what had happened and after pulling up Derry Gowan he went back again to the marker and took the right course. The others continued to race and all came in 10 finishers was the outsider Sirrah Jay.

However, O'Donnell was one of the few jockeys to walk the course before the race. He confidently assured owner Bernard Carroll and trainer John Brassill that Derry Gowan, a 5-1 favourite, could win the prize in the stewards' room, and he was proved right.

Point-to-point

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Results from yesterday's three meetings

Haydock Park Going: good to soft 2.15 (2m 100yd) 1. VICARIO DE BRAY (M) Dwyer, 6-5 fav; 2. Celtic Drove (C) Price, 15-1; 3. Cantor Hill (P) Price, 10-1; 4. ALSO RAN: 7-11-3 A. Savat; 8-11-3 R. Duchene; 9-11-3 R. Duchene; 10-11-3 R. Duchene; 11-11-3 R. Duchene; 12-11-3 R. Duchene; 13-11-3 R. Duchene; 14-11-3 R. Duchene; 15-11-3 R. Duchene; 16-11-3 R. Duchene; 17-11-3 R. Duchene; 18-11-3 R. Duchene; 19-11-3 R. Duchene; 20-11-3 R. Duchene; 21-11-3 R. Duchene; 22-11-3 R. Duchene; 23-11-3 R. Duchene; 24-11-3 R. Duchene; 25-11-3 R. Duchene; 26-11-3 R. Duchene; 27-11-3 R. Duchene; 28-11-3 R. Duchene; 29-11-3 R. Duchene; 30-11-3 R. Duchene; 31-11-3 R. Duchene; 32-11-3 R. Duchene; 33-11-3 R. Duchene; 34-11-3 R. Duchene; 35-11-3 R. Duchene; 36-11-3 R. Duchene; 37-11-3 R. Duchene; 38-11-3 R. Duchene; 39-11-3 R. Duchene; 40-11-3 R. Duchene; 41-11-3 R. Duchene; 42-11-3 R. Duchene; 43-11-3 R. Duchene; 44-11-3 R. Duchene; 45-11-3 R. Duchene; 46-11-3 R. Duchene; 47-11-3 R. Duchene; 48-11-3 R. 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FOOTBALL: GRAHAM INTENT TO SHOW THAT LESSONS IN MANAGEMENT WERE WELL UNDERSTOOD

When friends must
perform become
the best of enemies

Terry Venables will find that friendship stops short at the steps leading up to Highbury's marble hall tomorrow when his Tottenham Hotspur team hopes to steal some of the television limelight that the Arsenal side of his close friend, George Graham, have been jealously hogging.

It will be the first time that the two men have found themselves in opposition as managers. Graham, who learned his craft under Venables at Crystal Palace, means to show the Tottenham manager what a good instructor he was, as if this season has not already provided ample proof.

Finalists in the Littlewoods Cup for the second successive season and quarter-finalists in the FA Cup, Arsenal, under Graham, have emerged as the undisputed masters of sudden death football. And they are not about to let Tottenham, whom they defeated in the reverse fixture at White Hart Lane last October, take the sheen off their season.

Cause for celebration

The Larne manager, Paul Malone, was awarded an extended contract to 1993 on the eve of the final Park club's attempt to end a 12-year jinx in their third meeting with Linfield in the space of two weeks (George Ace writes).

Larne have not beaten Linfield since 1976 and, following a 1-1 draw in the first round of the Irish Cup a fortnight ago, Linfield won the replay at Windsor Park by the only goal.

It goes almost without saying that Malone can think of no better way of celebrating his new contract than by plotting an overdue win.

He said: "We were a shade nervous to lose in the Cup. We have the ability, it is just a matter of getting our act together on the day. It will be some Saturday night if we beat them."

Glentworth, four points clear at the top of the table, should consolidate their position by defeating Ballymena United.

England assaults
gain late reward

A cultured midfield player with style and panache beyond his years, he engineered his side's more cohesive moments as well as opening the scoring, after 10 minutes, with a quite delightful drive from 12 yards.

England's schoolboys secured the Centenary Shield for the sixth consecutive year at Wrexham's Racecourse Ground yesterday, defeating Wales in the under-18 international with a good deal more comfort than the scoreline suggests.

England, fielding the same side that was largely outclassed by The Netherlands at Blackburn 72 hours earlier, held the upper hand for virtually the entire match because their teamwork was a good deal more precise.

If the respected Football League referee, Ron Bridges, had been expecting a leisurely stroll in the winter sunshine, he will have been disappointed. He was constantly called upon to discriminate between genuine enthusiasm and premeditated aggression.

One player who steered clear of adversity and subsequently proved himself to be the game's outstanding contributor was Evans, of England, who is on associate schoolboy forms with Charlton.

Portfolio
PLUS NEW
Accumulator

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 22).

Team	Win	Draw	Lose	St	Goal
1	7	1	1	1	1
2	7	1	1	1	1
3	7	1	1	1	1
4	7	1	1	1	1
5	7	1	1	1	1
6	7	1	1	1	1
7	7	1	1	1	1
8	7	1	1	1	1
9	7	1	1	1	1
10	7	1	1	1	1
11	7	1	1	1	1
12	7	1	1	1	1
13	7	1	1	1	1
14	7	1	1	1	1
15	7	1	1	1	1
16	7	1	1	1	1
17	7	1	1	1	1
18	7	1	1	1	1
19	7	1	1	1	1
20	7	1	1	1	1
21	7	1	1	1	1
22	7	1	1	1	1
23	7	1	1	1	1
24	7	1	1	1	1
25	7	1	1	1	1
26	7	1	1	1	1
27	7	1	1	1	1
28	7	1	1	1	1
29	7	1	1	1	1
30	7	1	1	1	1
31	7	1	1	1	1
32	7	1	1	1	1
33	7	1	1	1	1
34	7	1	1	1	1
35	7	1	1	1	1
36	7	1	1	1	1
37	7	1	1	1	1
38	7	1	1	1	1
39	7	1	1	1	1
40	7	1	1	1	1
41	7	1	1	1	1
42	7	1	1	1	1
43	7	1	1	1	1
44	7	1	1	1	1



Bryan Robson: fit enough to face Norwich at Carrow Road

HOCKEY

Hazlitt called up
from the Army

Simon Hazlitt, of the Army, who is not among the 16 players chosen for the Champions Trophy tournament at Lakeside later this month, has been called up as a back-up defender for Great Britain's training matches against France at Bisham Abbey today and tomorrow.

James Duthie has a groin injury and if he plays in defence at all will be used sparingly. A similar crisis occurs in Britain's attack, with Kirkwood still worried by his back injury. However, Bilson, of Teddington, from the England under-21 squad, is also standing by as a forward.

Britain may well fall short of striking power with only six authentic forwards, Batchelor, Thompson, Cliff, Grimley, Garcia and Mayer, available for two days' hard work against a French side in the process of team-building.

On the domestic front Southgate needs only to win their match against Reading at Neasden tomorrow to make sure of the premier division title in the Plaza Express London League.

Touring Britons given
a pre-Olympic test

The British team leaving Heathrow today to play in the Australian bicentennial tournament in Perth will have an early chance to gauge the strength of some of their Olympic opponents. The countries taking part are Australia, The Netherlands, South Korea, Canada and the United States, all of whom have qualified for Seoul - plus New Zealand.

A week today, Britain will play the United States in an exhibition match to open a pitch at Geraldton, 200 miles north of Perth. Their first match in the tournament is against Canada, on March 19.

Britain then play New Zealand on March 20, Australia on March 21, The Netherlands on March 22 and South Korea on March 23.

FOR THE RECORD

Team	Win	Draw	Lose	St	Goal
1	7	1	1	1	1
2	7	1	1	1	1
3	7	1	1	1	1
4	7	1	1	1	1
5	7	1	1	1	1
6	7	1	1	1	1
7	7	1	1	1	1
8	7	1	1	1	1
9	7	1	1	1	1
10	7	1	1	1	1
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12	7	1	1	1	1
13	7	1	1	1	1
14	7	1	1	1	1
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34	7	1	1	1	1
35	7	1	1	1	1
36	7	1	1	1	1
37	7	1	1	1	1
38	7	1	1	1	1
39	7	1	1	1	1
40	7	1	1	1	1
41	7	1	1	1	1
42	7	1	1	1	1
43	7	1	1	1	1
44	7	1	1	1	1

TENNIS
Bates spurs Britain to
victory over Swedes

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Zurich

Britain have been transformed from beaten hydes into winning jockeys. Consequently, they could have another year in the first division of the Opel European Cup, a men's indoor championship. The ill-tempered players who lost to Czechoslovakia on Thursday behaved far better and beat Sweden 2-1 yesterday.

In the matches they won, Bates, more precisely, Jeremy Bates, had a little luck when they needed it. Moreover, the Swedes were not the Wilanders and Edbergs of tennis. But this was an admirably resolute and disciplined day's work.

Andrew Castle was beaten 6-3, 6-1 by Christian Bergstrom, but Bates confounded the world rankings and put Britain level with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Magnus Gustafsson. The Bates and Castle beat Niclas Kroon and Magnus Tideman 6-4, 7-6 in the deciding doubles.

Bates was the star of the show and deserved his luck. The first morsel came his way when Gustafsson was serving at 3-4 and 40-0. Bates hit the ball out but a line judge erred in his favour. That shifted the morale of both players. Bates won five consecutive games, although three went to deuce.

The second lucky morsel dropped Britain's way during the first rally of the tie-break in the doubles. Bates hit a forehand winner that flicked off the net cord. A backhand volley by Bates gave Britain another mini-break and a thrilling match ended tamely with a double-fault by Kroon.

Castle, sometimes fretful, but always concentrating on the task in hand, played a good match, but never had a break point. His ground strokes often had too much care or hope in them. Bergstrom's had more punch and precision.

The Swede is slim, sinewy, bouncy, and slightly bandy; reminiscent of Anders Jarryd, who plays for the same club. Bergstrom played almost flawlessly well but had an odd habit of practising his toss as if testing the wind. Indoors, there is not a lot of it.

The bigger, stiff-backed Gustafsson is active and imaginative, but Bates is a better player. Bates did everything well. He went for his shots and hit to a good length. But the first set was in the balance, and that is where the inexperienced Gustafsson and encouraged the relentlessly aggressive Briton to maul his Swede.

Bates was equally sharp in the doubles, whatever shot he was playing. In his five service games, Britain conceded only three points.

Britain broke Kroon in the first set, had four break points against Tideman in the second, and saved a set point - the Swedish pair's only chance to break through - when Bates was serving at 5-6. The rest (the tie break) you know about already.

BOWLS
Double repeat in
Bryant's sights

By Gordon Allan

Ireland have a powerful representation, including David Corbitt in the top half of the draw and Jim Baker, the 1984 champion, in the other half. Gary Smith and Andy Thomson, the world pairs runners-up, could go far. John Price is in the West Hall, Alexandra Palace, on London's northern heights tonight.

Bryant, runner-up to Tony Alcock last year, is not scheduled on the green until Tuesday evening when he plays Peter Fong of Fiji. Alcock's opponent in the opening match is John Thomas, the Welshman beaten by Bryant in the 1981 final.

After Australia's victory in the world indoor pairs at Bournemouth will be more interesting than ever to see whether an overseas challenger can at last rise to winning the singles as well. The Australian competitors, John Snell and Stan Coomber are new to the event, but the New Zealanders, Phil Skoglund and Peter Bellis, are experienced in the indoor game by now, as is Cecil Bransky of Israel.

Reading, who also have a premier division match today against Spencer, are desperately seeking points to qualify for next year's National League. They also have injury problems with Davey, Osborn and Oscrout out of action for the remainder of the season. However, they have called on Lowe, their second-team captain, an expert at short corners.

Ica need to win both their remaining matches, against Gloucester City today and Cheltenham on March 12, to make sure of keeping the Sun Life West League premier division title, which they have won for the past 10 years.

Any mistakes now could deny them the only vacancy there is from the West in next year's first division of the National League. Their chief rivals in the race are Bream and Gloucester City.

SHAW'S narrow escape

Norma Shaw, five times a winner of the English women's indoor singles title, was given a fright in her quarter-final match against Sally Franklin in Manchester yesterday (David Rhys Jones writes).

Shaw was joined in the semi-final by Jayne Roylance, Edna Bessell and Sheila White.

Shaw, 3-12 down, fought back to level the match at 18-all.

ROWING
Oxford's
chance
to climb

By Jim Rallison

Oxford University will be anxious to climb the ladder to the 32nd Reading University head of the river race today, rowed over 4,250 metres downstream. Last year Oxford, in the midst of mutiny, performed poorly, finishing in fifth place and more than 30 seconds behind the head crew, Leander, with London University, Imperial College and Reading University also ahead of them.

Oxford's task is eased fractionally with news that Leander have only entered their second eight, but the Leander head crew is confirmed as the embryo of what may well be Britain's Olympic eight, while among the 88 teams competing are two national squad entries.

Oxford, who with Cambridge are expected to announce their crew for the Boat Race on Monday, are clearly still experimenting with their order. They will be started by the American Rhodes scholar, Michael Gaffney, with the freshman and British world junior gold medal winner, Jonathan Searle, at No. 7, and Gavin Stewart, the tallest and heaviest man ever to row in the Boat Race, at No. 6. Stewart is 6ft 8½in tall and weighs 165 lb.

SKIING
Sense of anticipation
after Bell's success

From Ian Macleod, Whistler Mountain

Martin Bell, after his historic eighth place in the Olympic downhill at Calgary, comes under public scrutiny for the first time when this Canadian resort today hosts the first of two men's World Cup downhill races to be held in North America in the next week.

"Anticipation for Whistler is running high," Alasdair Scobbie, the British team manager, said. "It is one of Martin's favourite courses. His eighth place has made a very big difference."

"It will please Drambuie (the team's sponsor); it is justification for some of the money they have spent," Scobbie added. "Hopefully, it will, in time, encourage others to give sponsorship. We need sponsorship in kind: skis and vehicles. It doesn't cost them that much."

Bell, therefore, represents a cornerstone of what could be a bright future. Scobbie feels that one goal has already been achieved. "The priority was for Martin to pull off something spectacular," he said. "He will now go on to produce better and better results, thus consolidating his position in world terms."

Bell, it seems, is keen to carry on and compete at Albertville in 1992. Scobbie said: "What happened in Calgary has boosted his confidence even more. He has a very professional attitude to what he is doing. He is going to win a race one of these days."

Bell's eighth place, Scobbie said, "should inspire young kids to take up the sport. But our problem is being able to provide youngsters with a taste of snow at an early age. In alpine areas they can go to school in the morning and ski in the afternoon."

GENEVA: The men's World Cup slalom, called off on Tuesday because of fog at Grouse Mountain, British Columbia, is to be held in Saalbach, Austria, on March 25.

GYMNASTICS
Bilozerehev
the centre
of attention

Dmitri Bilozerehev, the world champion in the main attraction at the fifteenth annual display by leading Soviet gymnasts, sponsored by the Daily Mirror, at Alexandra Palace today and tomorrow (Peter Aykroyd writes).

Twice in the past, Bilozerehev, aged 22, has surprised the gymnastics world with his outstanding achievements. The first occasion was in 1983 when, at the age of 16, he became the youngest man ever to win the European and world titles. The second was last October, at the Rotterdam world championships, when he made an outstanding comeback after serious injury to regain his world title.

In 1985, Bilozerehev, favoured to take the gold medal at the world championships in Montreal, broke his left leg in a car accident. Despite undergoing three operations on his leg, however, the gymnast's willpower was such that by last September he had recovered sufficiently to seize USSR Cup.

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